

Sogat move played 'a major part'

NGA call off picketing at Wapping

By Tim Jones

The year-long dispute between the print unions and News International is officially over. It ended yesterday when the National Graphical Association informed the company it was prepared "unconditionally" to call off its picketing.

After meeting at its Bedford headquarters, the union decided to follow the same course as Sogat '82, which had decided on Thursday that it too would abandon the dispute.

The NGA decision was given to the company shortly before News International solicitors were due to activate High Court proceedings for contempt of an injunction granted last July which banned mass picketing outside its new plant at Wapping, east London.

If the action had gone ahead, the 126,000-strong craft union faced the possible sequestration of its assets.

Last night, Mr Bill O'Neill, the company's managing director, said: "The NGA's action signals the end of the dispute. We can now get on with the job."

The former Costa Rican Security Minister says he met President Reagan last April, shortly after the secret Contra arms supply flights began but several months before the President admits knowing about them.

Contra flights
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Final fling
England's cricketers will attempt to add the World Series Cup to the Ashes and the Perth Challenge when they begin the best-of-three finals against Australia in Melbourne tomorrow.

Title chase
England's much-changed Rugby Union team take on the Irish in Dublin and Wales travel to Paris to tackle France, the favourites, as the Five Nations championship gets under way today.

Bread battle
Another bid battle started when Ranks Hovis McDougall, the Mother's Pride bread group, made an unwanted £260 million offer for the Avana bakery company.

Love money
Such novelties as a love letter from Beethoven and Goon Show scripts with Spike Milligan's notes are now superb investments.

Family Money, pages 26-34

Portfolio
● There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition — the weekly prize of £3,000 plus the daily £4,000.
● Yesterday's game, page 3.
● Portfolio lists, pages 25 and 34.

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with a normal relationship with the community."

Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the NGA, said last night that picketing and demonstrations by his members will end immediately. "Sogat's decision played a very major part in our own decision."

The NGA began its dispute with the company after 939 of its members employed by News International went on strike over the issue of jobs for life and were dismissed.

Since then 207 have received termination payments of up to £30,000. The remaining NGA members will now be able to apply for termination payments of four weeks' pay for every year of service following a decision by the company to reopen the offer for one month, until March 10.

A small minority of hardline Sogat members have said they do not accept the decision taken by their national executive by 23 votes to nine but they have been warned they could be dismissed from the union if they continue to picket the plant.

The National Union of Journalists, which is also in dispute with the company, will decide its position next week at a meeting of its national executive committee.

Most of the journalists working for the four national newspapers published at the plant, *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *The News of the World*, ignored instructions not to cross picket lines and 95 have been fined £1,000 for doing so.

Mr Harry Conroy, the union's general secretary, said

shares soared to record

Investors went on a £4 billion spending spree yesterday, chasing share prices on the London stock market to their highest levels ever.

The FT index of top 30 shares broke through the important 1,500 level for the first time, rising 22.7 to a record high of 1,508.9. In the past few weeks it has risen 83 points, or nearly 6 per cent, helped by renewed confidence in the economy and hopes of tax cuts in next month's Budget.

The broader based FT-SE 100 index also extended its record-breaking run, coming within a whisker of the 1,900 level. It closed 32.3 up at a peak of 1,898.4.

The London market took its cue from another good performance overnight on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average has also been reaching new heights.

"This must be one of the best accounts in living memory," one stockbroker said last night. "Turnover has been huge."

But some dealers fear that the start of the new account next week could see investors trying to cash in some of their huge profits.

Mr Clifford Longley, father (chairman) of *The Times* NUJ chapel (office branch), said: "The NUJ had better extricate itself from this mess as quickly as possible. There must be no vendettas or recriminations."

During the dispute, divisions grew between the London-based NGA members and those in the provinces which emphasized traditional jealousies. Those in the provinces had always considered the NGA in London to be "fat cats" and many refused to contribute towards strike funds launched to sustain the dispute.

Picketing and other action by Sogat and the NGA had always been frustrated by the fact that hundreds of members continued to work for the company, distributing and publishing the newspapers and associated publications.

The end of the dispute, which will allow the company to conduct its business in a normal manner, will also be welcomed by people living in the area of the plant.

Throughout the year, they have witnessed scenes of violence as pickets attempting to blockade and storm the plant have clashed with police.

One woman said yesterday: "It's been a nightmare living here. There have been times when we have been prisoners in our own homes."

"We were constantly getting abuse from the pickets to such an extent that my three-year-old has actually learned to shout scab."

Journalists and printers at the *South Wales Argus* are to return to work on Monday after an eight-week dispute over the introduction of new technology.

Thousands rush for BA shares
By John Bell City Editor
Investors rushed in their thousands yesterday to buy shares in British Airways. Close on a million cheques beat the 10am deadline and it is now certain that even those who wanted the minimum 400 shares will have their applications scaled down.

Teams of bank staff are working through the weekend and it is believed that investors have put up more than £2 billion.

At the crowded Lloyds office in Bishopsgate the building was crowded with people handing in their forms before Lord King, chairman of BA, posted a notice at one minute past 10: "Offer Closed."

It was, Lord King said, "just like the last night of the Proms. I am very pleased with the response."

Late yesterday, BA shares were being traded in the unofficial "grey market" at around 90p compared with the 65p first instalment at which they were offered.

A second payment of 60p is due in August.



Police hand back to BBC three of five seized films

By Jonathan Miller and Michael Evans

Police last night began returning to the BBC material seized in last weekend's raid on Broadcasting House in Glasgow.

But the return was complicated by a contradiction between a Crown Office statement promising the immediate return of five films in the Secret Society series and a report from the BBC that only three films had been received.

The Crown Office statement said that other materials seized by the Special Branch would be returned as soon as it was determined that they did not relate to the continuing Official Secrets Act investigation.

The BBC said the three films were delivered by two plainclothes detectives to Broadcasting House in Glasgow shortly before 7pm. BBC executives were discussing with the officers why they had not brought the other two films promised by the Crown Office.

The return of the films indicates that their content does not fall into the scope of the national security investigation into the revelation in a sixth film in the series concerning the Zircron spy satellite project.

The pirated copy of the Zircron film was shown yesterday at the headquarters of the National Union of Journalists in London in defiance of a letter from the BBC warning that the screening was a breach of the corporation's copyright.

BBC officials reaffirmed last night that they intend to

director of inland communications, indicated there was still some distance separating the two sides.

He said: "There is a lot of hard negotiating still to do. There will be no agreement without our conditions being involved in that deal."

The company has offered a pay deal worth about 7 per cent on condition the union accepts changes in its working practices.

Throughout the dispute, Telecom has been insisting that the engineers must drop

broadcast the five remaining programmes in the Duncan Campbell series as soon as a transmission date can be cleared. But no decision can be taken until all of the films had been returned to the BBC, a spokesman said.

BBC journalists yesterday voted to support a two-hour work stoppage on February 17 to coincide with a lobby of Parliament intended to protest at the raid on the BBC and the use of the Official Secrets Act to seize journalistic materials.

A union spokesman at Broadcasting House said the stoppage would disrupt radio news summaries and the content of Radio Four's *PM* programme could also be affected.

Meanwhile, it became known yesterday that the Prime Minister and other key Cabinet ministers discussed last night whether it might be necessary to make a general statement about the Zircron project, before they first learnt of the proposed BBC programme.

They decided that since the possible launch date was so far ahead, there was no reason for the Government to bring it out into the open.

When it was realized that Mr Duncan Campbell was aware of the Zircron project, it was decided to play a softy reply line, in the hope that Mr Campbell and the BBC would not make anything of it.

rigid demarcation practices which it claims are now obsolete and "would not have survived in a company accustomed to competition."

Mass union meetings have been arranged for tomorrow to enable the leadership to outline the position to the members and to "reaffirm solidarity."

Mr Ron Burch, secretary of the City of London branch of the union, said: "There will be no return to work within the City if Telecom insists on strings."

What they really mean is lunch.

'Human Rights' Bill is defeated

By Philip Webster Chief Political Correspondent

A Conservative-led backbench attempt to enshrine the protections offered by the European Convention on Human Rights in British law was killed off yesterday in the Commons.

It was defeated in the face of the combined hostility of the Government and the Labour Party leadership and the failure of Sir Edward Gardner, chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Home Affairs and Conservative MP for Fylde, to muster just enough supporters to back a procedural motion which would have allowed his Human Rights Bill to proceed.

After a debate unusually well-attended for a Friday when most MPs go to their constituencies, 94 MPs of all parties backed a motion closing the discussion.

Only 16 voted against but because under Commons rules at least 100 backers are

needed for a closure motion to succeed a disappointed Sir Edward was defeated by just six votes.

It is an issue on which the Tory Party and Cabinet is divided. For that reason the Government's "payroll vote" was not mobilized to stop the Bill. But it was discouraged from actively supporting it, and Sir Edward had no members of the Government, some of whom are known to support the aims of his Bill, with him.

The Labour Party, too, was officially opposed and only three of its junior frontbench spokesmen backed Sir Edward.

He was supported by 58 Conservative MPs, 18 from the Alliance, which is committed to implementing his aims in government, 16 Labour MPs, and two others.

Sir Edward said last night: "I do not regard this as a defeat on the merits of the Bill. Procedure defeated it and nothing else. More than three-quarters of MPs on both sides of the House support it. A supremely important subject has been left in a terribly inconclusive state, and the Government must now consider introducing legislation of its own or arranging a full debate on an appropriate day so that the will of the Commons can be shown."

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, said in a speech in Southsea last night that the action of the official Labour and Conservative parliamentary parties in killing off the Bill showed the fundamental conservatism of "both the old class-based parties to constitutional reform and legal reform."

Mr Richard Holme, chairman of the all-party Rights campaign, said: "It is a tragedy that the front benches can kill a Bill in this way. How can Parliament stand up for the rights of individual citizens if they do not turn up in sufficient numbers to vote?"

Sir Edward told the Commons that his Bill, which would have allowed people to take rights cases initially to the British courts rather than Strasbourg, would fill a huge gap in British law.

But opposing the measure Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, gave a warning that it could propel judges into the political arena.

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Tensions ease as US reduces Mid-East fleet

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

High tension in the Middle East eased yesterday as the US scaled down its Mediterranean naval force and a Lebanese leader predicted that Mr Terry Waite would be freed soon.

The Sixth Fleet armada off Lebanon was cut from 85 ships to about 15 and the Pentagon decided to substitute a flotilla carrying 1,900 Marines for another unit rather than retain both on station.

The decision was seen in Washington as a measure to reassure nervous European allies that no military strike in Lebanon was imminent.

Whitehall sources confirmed that Britain had opposed a US plan to hold a terrorism strategy meeting with its six closest allies in Rome.

"It was considered that the timing was wrong and the meeting has been dropped," a spokesman said. France also proved unwilling to take part.

There were tentative signs that the scale-down might have the secondary motive of creating conditions for a release of hostages. Speculation along those lines was encouraged by two developments concerning Mr Waite.

Mr Nabih Berri, leader of the Shia Muslim Amal movement, told the American CBS network that the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy "will be freed very soon."

Mr Berri, interviewed in Damascus, did not disclose the source of his information. The pro-Iranian Hezbollah or "Party of God", thought by some to be holding Mr Waite, is a Shia organization that broke away from Mr Berri's Amal movement, which is more secular.

An unconfirmed report tended to support Mr Berri's optimism. *Ash-shiraa*, the Lebanese magazine that first exposed the secret shipment of American arms to Iran, predicted early freedom for Mr Waite. It said he may be "freed next week, once the

military storm in the area cools off" — an apparent reference to the Sixth Fleet presence.

The magazine, which quoted informed Muslim sources, said his fate was still open to negotiation. It offered as evidence the silence of his captors since he disappeared while attempting to make contact with Islamic Jihad kidnappers on January 20.

It quoted the same sources as saying that Mr Waite's captors had "acquired solid information" that he was

working for the CIA and had been recruited to mediate the release of foreign hostages. Without further elaboration it added that a series of messages had been exchanged and that Mr Waite's release was only a matter of "security arrangements and formalities."

No confirmation was available in London and the Foreign Office said it had no developments.

However Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said in Manchester that the Foreign Office was doing everything possible to trace him.

He added that under no circumstances would the Government be held to ransom to secure his release.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, in a sermon at Chichester Cathedral, expressed his concern for his envoy's safety, but ended with the words "do not be anxious about tomorrow. Tomorrow will look after itself."

In Tehran, President Ali Khamenei gave a warning that any US military action would increase enmity against America. He said that Iran considered the "presence of any power or superpower... in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East an infringement on the independence and national dignity of nations of the region."

Foreign Office rejects Iran 'spy confession'

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Office yesterday told Tehran's top diplomat in London that it was "incomprehensible and totally unacceptable" that a supposed confession of spying by a British businessman had been shown on Iranian television.

After watching a tape of the broadcast, officials said they could see no basis for Tehran's allegations that Mr Roger Cooper, aged 51, was a spy.

In a further development it was revealed that Mr Cooper's brother, Paul, had visited him in jail during January.

Iran's chargé d'affaires, Mr

Muhammad Mahdi Akhond-Zadeh Basti, was asked by the Foreign Office for an urgent explanation.

A phrase used by Mr Cooper in the broadcast was seen as a possible hint that his words should not be taken at face value. He said: "For many years I had links with BIS — the British Intelligence Service."

Whitehall sources confirmed that the only organizations with those initials were the British Intelligence Section at the Swedish Embassy and the British Information Service.

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Judge's 'respectful' plea for plainer English

By Alan Hamilton



A barrister is a man born with a silver fork in his mouth in place of a tongue. Or so it would appear to Mr Justice Staughton, a judge in the Commercial Court.

The learned judge has become irritated at the linguistic duplicity of counsel, and the way in which they use archaic and superfluous words and phrases to camouflage what is, at bottom, an insult.

Writing in the current edition of the quarterly legal journal *Comment*, a learned magazine read by the upper

echelons of the legal profession, the judge takes exception to barristers who preface a statement to him with the phrase "With respect". What that really means, says the judge, is "You are wrong."

A statement prefaced with the words "With great respect" means "You are utterly wrong."

And if a barrister produces the ultimate weapon of "With utmost respect" he is really saying to the court, "Send for the men in white coats."

The judge wants more plain English used in courts, and less of the legal language of the obscure past, some of which he says has been "obsolete in ordinary speech almost since the Authorized Version of the Bible."

He particularly dislikes the use of words like "verily", and he has no time for counsel who "crave", whether it be his indulgence or anything else.

Words like "humbly" and "respectfully" are not only unnecessary in written legal documents, they are generally untruthful in oral argument, says the judge with utmost

Judges themselves are, of course, not entirely free of guilt in the matter of exchanges which are not only florid, but coded.

As the courtroom clock moves towards 1pm, counsel might say: "It might be of value to Your Lordship if I were to inform you at this juncture that I have several more questions to ask of this witness which would take some little while." The judge will reply: "This seems a useful time to adjourn."

What they really mean is lunch.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Unions hold key to £90m new pit

A new £90 million coal mine which will create 800 jobs in an unemployment blackspot will go ahead only if miners agree to new working methods, it was disclosed yesterday. The Margam drift mine in west Glamorgan will supply coking coal to the nearby Port Talbot steelworks. But before development work begins, British Coal insists the unions will have to agree to six-day working operations. Vital talks will take place in Cardiff next week and if a deal is agreed, investment in Margam will be the biggest in almost 150 years of South Wales coal mining. Finance will be sought from the Government and the European Coal and Steel Community.

The pit would be the first new one in the coalfield for a decade. Since the end of the miners' strike, 14 pits have shut and more than 9,000 mining jobs have been lost.

The new colliery would take four-and-a-half years to complete and would produce 1.2 million tonnes of coal a year.

Animals Benefits raid bonanza

Animal Liberation Front activists raided an agricultural experiments building early yesterday in reprisal for the jailing of nine of their members at Sheffield Crown Court on Thursday.

The group broke into the premises of J Bibby, an agricultural food manufacturer, at Neston, Cheshire, and stole 52 hens and four piglets.

In a statement, the ALF said the action "was in support of people who were charged in Sheffield".

Royal gold runs out

A mine which has supplied royal brides dating back to the Queen Mother with gold for their wedding rings has hit rock bottom.

Management at the Clogau St David mine in mid-Wales said yesterday the Royal Family has received its last nugget from the site - enough for two rings.

It means that Prince Edward could be one of the last in a long line of royals to present their bride with the exclusive jewellery. Since the 1930s the Queen Mother, the Queen, the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York have had their rings cast from high quality gold in the mine.

The company is now considering opening the mine as a tourist attraction.

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Home Office blamed for rising tension in jails Prison officers in militant mood

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The bitter resentment felt by Britain's prison officers about their working conditions was shown yesterday with the publication of an explosive report accusing the Home Office of "incompetence and deceit".

The report from the Prison Officers' Association painted a disturbing picture of the prison system and claimed that officers were frequently having to cope with hostage-taking, arson and assaults.

Mr John Bartell, chairman of the association, said at a press conference yesterday

that while prison officers were facing the constant threat of trouble they felt that their employers no longer cared about them or the service.

Mr Bartell said officers blamed the Prison Department for the riots which shook Britain's jails last year.

The riots last April and May came after industrial action by prison officers in a continuing dispute about manning levels and overtime.

Rampaging inmates wrecked and set fire to jails in many parts of the country. Northeye prison, near Bexhill, East Sussex, was almost burnt to the ground.

Mr Bartell disclosed that

prison officers in some northern jails have been persuaded to postpone threatened industrial action before a delegate conference being held by their association next Tuesday.

At that conference strong views are expected about government proposals for the biggest shake-up of the service since the Second World War.

Mr Bartell said that the conference was being held before members took matters into their own hands.

"It has been called as a last ditch attempt to avoid a serious dispute," he said.

The Government's proposals make clear that prison officers' overtime would be

abolished. Officers would get higher rates and overtime would be replaced by a system of contracted hours.

Prison officers are upset and claim that the new scheme would no longer give them a choice in the hours they worked.

If Tuesday's meeting does not avert a potentially explosive collision with the Home Office, that at present seems inevitable, it is likely to come on or near April 1.

The Prison Governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants said yesterday that the Prison Department had given April 1 as the date for the proposals, known

as Fresh Start, to begin although every element could not be introduced then: every prison had to be looked at by a manpower team.

Adding to the growing feeling of unease in prisons is a statement by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, in September. He gave a warning that if the association and the prison service management cannot negotiate a way forward, the plans will be imposed.

But if that happened and the prison officers did not like what they were getting the proposals would be resisted, with all the increased tension that implies.

Arabs poach RAF pilots

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Some of the RAF's finest pilots are being tempted to leave and become training instructors in Saudi Arabia.

The pilots, now teaching young RAF officers how to fly, are being wooed by high tax-free salaries and free accommodation in Riyadh, the Saudi capital. They will form the nucleus of the rapidly expanding King Faisal Air Academy, turning out Saudi pilots to fly the British-built Tornado and Hawk jets bought in a billion contract last year.

As part of the deal - the biggest defence contract signed by Britain - British Aerospace agreed to supply 60 training aircraft to the academy. Now the Saudis need instructors to fly the PC9 and Hawk jets due to be delivered from next month, together with their existing fleet of Cessnas and Strikemasters.

The Saudi Arabian offer is the latest in a series of "poaching" raids on the RAF which has led to a shortage of at least 250 trained pilots. There are fears that the problem will get worse during the next few years.

The biggest single threat is from civilian airlines who are now beginning to recruit strongly. British Airways alone wants more than 100 qualified pilots almost immediately and expects a large proportion of them to come from the RAF.

The Ministry of Defence is so worried about the flood of officers requesting to leave early that they have launched a review aimed at finding ways of keeping them in the service and countering the attractions of airlines or foreign air forces.

The cost of training - now put at £2.87 million for each pilot qualified on fast jets, and about £1 million for a navigator - is partly wasted if officers leave before completing their full service.

It is as yet impossible to say how many will be tempted by the Saudi offer which is being made through an agency specially set up by British Aerospace to provide back-up support for the Saudis.

They are now actively looking for both ground crew and pilots to work in the flying school and expect little trouble in attracting more than enough potential recruits.

They are looking especially for qualified flying instructors, those who have successfully been through the RAF's Central Flying School and learnt the skills necessary to teach other pilots.

Typically this could be a Flight Lieutenant, aged about 24, earning about £16,400 a year.

The Saudi Air Force is already one of the most powerful in the Middle East and follows a policy of using its own nationals to fly the actual combat-ready aircraft in squadron service.

Alert after 2 killed by meningitis

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

General practitioners and schools have been alerted in Penrith, Cumbria, and Barnet, Hertfordshire, after a rise in meningitis cases, including two deaths.

A girl aged three in Cumbria has died from the disease and another aged one has fallen ill with it in the same area.

Health officials said yesterday that there was no evidence of an epidemic or that the two cases were linked.

The girl died on Tuesday, shortly after being admitted to Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, where the other girl is being treated. Yesterday she was said to be "poorly".

At Barnet Hospital, in Hertfordshire, four people have been admitted with meningitis over the past five weeks.

A girl aged 10 died from the disease on January 6, and an eleven-week-old boy, admitted on January 23, is still in hospital, although his condition is improving.

An man aged 18 diagnosed with the disease, was discharged this week but a boy, aged 15, who was also admitted last month is still being treated.

A fifth suspected case has still to be confirmed.

PSA officers sent for trial

Two Property Services Agency officers were committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, accused of accepting all expenses paid holidays from private building contractors.

Victor Kelly, aged 62, a former district works officer of Brighton, and Eric Wernborn, aged 55, a technical officer of Maidstone, Kent, were remanded on bail by Hove Magistrates.

MPs seek greater check on spending

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

The Commons defence select committee is likely to seek substantially increased powers of scrutiny over defence spending in the wake of the Zircov spy satellite affair.

It and the public accounts committee are sent by the Ministry of Defence a list of "major projects" annually. However only those projects whose overall cost will exceed £250 million and for which Treasury approval has been given have to be included on that list.

The committee had not been told about Zircov and may not know about other important projects on which the ministry may have embarked.

Dr John Gilbert, senior Labour member on the committee, rejects the claim of the minister, Mr Duncan Campbell, that the ministry had breached its obligations to keep Parliament informed in the case of Zircov, but believes the trigger figure for inclusion on the list should be considerably lowered.

He said yesterday that he would be pressing his colleagues to consider whether the figure should not be lowered and whether the ministry should not have to submit a list every six months.

He believes that the committee should be told when £50 million has been spent on a project, but while other senior committee members are understood to share his views that the system needs to be altered, they may prefer a higher figure.

If members go along with Dr Gilbert, the committee would produce a report making the appropriate recommendations which could be debated on the floor of the House and to which Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, would have to reply.

Dr Gilbert may also ask his colleagues to look again at the D-notice system which was the subject of a defence committee inquiry in 1980. He wants to know whether that system was activated in this case and if not why not.

Safety inquiry move to end airport strike

By Ian Smith

Two independent assessors last night began an investigation into new technology fire safety precautions at Manchester International Airport.

The move is intended to end the deadlock which has immobilised the airport for the past 10 days.

The two men, one selected by airport management, the other by union officials, will draw up a report of their findings.

The results will be binding on the two sides, which have both failed to find a compromise solution to end the walk-out by 52 firemen.

Airport management have asked Mr Patrick Bailey, an aviation consultant and former director of Gatwick Airport, to act on their behalf and the Transport and General Workers Union has appointed Mr Michael Martin, from its Civil Air Transport section.

The fireman angrily reject the claim that the dispute centres around money and insist that a reduction in fire-fighting personnel will lead to an inevitable lowering of fire standards at the airport.

Rough with the smooth for two new bishops

By Kenneth Gosling

Two new bishops found themselves in trouble yesterday, one for being too smooth, the other for being too scruffy.

It was early morning in Lincoln Cathedral when security-minded staff followed a suspicious-looking character in the building, fearing he could be a burglar. Mr John Watts, the vergier, said: "He looked hunched up and rather scruffy. I thought he could be casing the joint."

The bishop said later: "It's nice to know the people here

Irish voters still listen to promises

By Richard Ford

Party leaders in the Irish Republic have all donned suits of fiscal rectitude declaring that no additional promises can be made during the campaign.

But on the doorsteps it is proving more difficult to end the habit of a lifetime as the politics of promise remain potent in Irish electoral life.

An extension to the runway at Cork airport is announced as the campaign begins. When Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the prime minister, visits the city where Fine Gael is struggling to hold 10 seats, his deputy (MP) is "extremely confident" that a plan for a high technology plant with 350 jobs will be announced within a month.

Mr Peter Barry then listed how well Cork had been served by Fine Gael in government and in case the point was missed, the party placed advertisements in the local paper to tell a wider audience.

They invested £300,000 in the Cork to Swansea ferry and £100,000 in self-catering accommodation while the fishing industry in the area benefited by an £1.5 million repair to a local pier and the building of a marine rescue station.

The opposition are at it too. On the doorstep in north Dublin, Sean Haughey, the candidate son of the Fianna

Tebbit attack on Alliance tactics

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Mr Norman Tebbit, chairman of the Conservative Party, turned the attack on the Alliance yesterday as the Greenwich by-election gathered momentum.

Both the Conservatives and the Alliance campaign managers made little play of Ms Deirdre Wood's hard-left credentials as a member of the Inner London Education Authority.

Instead, Mr Tebbit said that the contest on February 26 was between, "this extraordinary left-wing lady and a good solid middle-of-the-road Conservative like me".

He said he believed the Alliance, like Labour, was now advocating tactical voting to defeat the Government.

Mr John Antcliffe, the Conservative candidate, went so far as to predict the by-election would be "a very close result", with only a few hundred votes separating himself and Ms Wood.

Both the party chairman and Mr Antcliffe, a merchant banker with Rothschilds, referred to the confusion after the Commons debate on the City when Liberals and Social Democrats went through different voting lobbies.

Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Woolwich, replied that both the Conservative and Labour parties would be split

over voting for the Human Rights Bill in the Commons.

Mrs Rosie Barnes, the Alliance candidate, said: "I take comfort from the fact that Mr Tebbit has spent the morning attacking us." Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, said the Conservative chairman would rather lose to Labour than to the Alliance.

Mrs Barnes also had the solace of an Alliance win across the Thames, where the Labour stronghold of Newham South was broken by an SDP candidate in a Newham Borough Council ward election.

1983 results: G Barnett (Lab) 13,361; A Rolfe (C) 12,150; T Ford (SDP/All) 8,783. Lab maj: 1,211.

Mr Paul Tyler, former Liberal MP for Bodmin, a former party chairman and Mr David Steel's campaign adviser, is on the Liberal

shortlist of five possible candidates for the Truro, Cornwall, by-election.

Others to face the final selection ballot next Saturday are Mrs Doris Asquith, former mayor of Truro, Mr Matthew Taylor, a Liberal economic policy researcher, Mr Malcolm Brown, chairman of the Cornwall Liberals, and Mr Philip Beckerlegge, present candidate for Tewkesbury and Cirencester.

Abortion Bill heading for Lords defeat

By Our Political Staff

The Bishop of Birmingham's Bill to abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy is heading for defeat in the Lords.

Dr Hugh Montefiore will try to save his Bill, which scraped through its second reading by 10 votes, by sending it to a select committee next Wednesday.

Any organizations or peers will have the right to put their views to the committee, whose members could make hospital visits.

The Infant Life (Preservation) Bill started this session as a simple measure to alter the time limit for abortions from 28 to 24 weeks. Dr Montefiore argued that medical advances made it much more likely for a baby born under 28 weeks of pregnancy to survive.

He has strong support from the Home Office but the Department of Health and Social Security prefers to operate a voluntary system. Only 30 abortions a year are carried out on mothers more than 24 weeks in pregnancy.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby, a Labour peer and a virulent opponent, argues that the Bill would prevent the abortion of foetuses found to be badly deformed or carrying the AIDS virus. He predicted that referral to the committee would kill the Bill in its present form.

The Bishop is due to retire on April 1 and neither supporters or opponents expect the Bill to be through the House in time.

Missing schoolboys

Big police hunt for 'drifter'

By Craig Seton

A nationwide hunt was launched yesterday for two schoolboys who have been missing since Monday with a man described by the police as an unstable "drifter".

The West Midlands police said they were "extremely concerned" for the safety of Latham Burke, aged 12, and Clinton Whitty, aged 14, of Quinton, Birmingham, who disappeared after arguments with their parents about their friendship with the man, Kenneth Nairn.

The boys left a note saying they were going away with him. Det Insp Malcolm Ross said that Nairn, aged 48, from Dundee, Scotland, was a ruminant cook who had a criminal record and had been treated for alcoholism. He used the alias John Robertson.

The three were last seen walking together in Harborne, Birmingham, on Tuesday night, when they hired a taxi to go to Coventry.

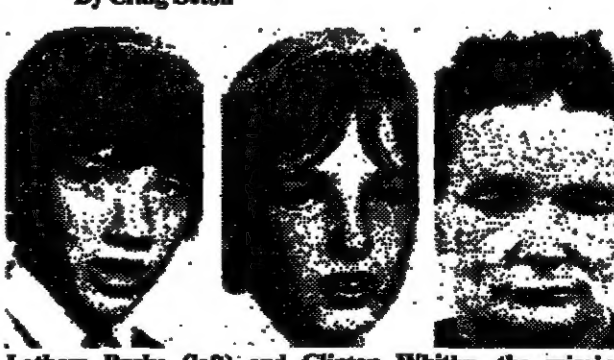
Det Insp Ross said: "I appeal to this man to return the boys. Nairn has an unstable temperament and is known to travel the country widely. The boys could be anywhere and we are very concerned about them."

The boys befriended Nairn and visited his flat near their homes in spite of their parents' warnings.

Mrs Burke said yesterday: "We are just giving by the telephone waiting. We are terribly worried because he is not the sort of man we want our son to be with."

Father Flatman says he intends no criticism of the new bishop and concedes that his background is "not his fault". Both bishops may wish to ponder on a further point Father Flatman makes: "The world is terribly full if you spend all your time being nice and don't say if you disagree."

Father Martin Flatman, vicar of St Mary & St John, East Oxford, writing in his parish magazine about the bishop-elect, who will be enthroned in June, says: "I find



Latham Burke (left) and Clinton Whitty, the missing schoolboys, and Kenneth Nairn, who is wanted by police.

Following the death of Mr David Fyfe Cable of Forfar, Scotland, who died in England after his return from Iran, and acting in trust for and on behalf of Mrs Sylvia Cable, his widow, who has now released a portion of his superb collection to:

VERY IMPORTANT AUCTION
of
HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL MERIT
of the first part to be auctioned in London
THE DAVID FYFE CABLE COLLECTION

RARE ANTIQUE PERSIAN RUGS
FINE AND EXCEPTIONAL RUGS FROM
PERSIA, ASIA MINOR, and the CAUCASUS
including

RARE SILK RUGS AND OTHER IMPORTANT ENTRIES
A NOTE ON THE LATE DAVID FYFE CABLE. He was born in Forfar, Scotland, on the 24th of April, 1934. At a very early age through his father, who had often worked in Iran and later as a student, he developed what was at that time an unusual interest in Persian rugs which continued to grow throughout his life.

In 1958 he went to London, at that time still the centre of the world for Persian carpets, to seek his fortune and his niche in the trade of Persian carpets.

The bonded warehouses at the Port of London Authority, Cutler Street, London EC2 (formerly the East India Docks Warehouse) were the centre of the oriental carpet trade.

It was in this closed world that David Fyfe Cable started his career and in which he was determined to succeed. He commenced his collection picking rare items in the hundreds of thousands of rugs that transited through the bonded warehouses. In his passionate love of rugs and his determination to succeed, even though an outsider in this field, he made outstanding progress.

In 1965 he became a director of the Persian Carpet Trading Company Ltd, of 120 Bishopsgate, London EC2, at that time one of the largest of the 72 companies in the Port of London Authority Warehouse.

In 1968 having mastered Farsi, and accompanied by his wife, he fulfilled his lifelong ambition to live and work in Iran. With foreign capital he organized in the manner of a large European trading corporation, International Carpet Trading Company Limited of Isfahan. It was during this time that his work took him deep into the remote parts of Iran where his passion for seeking out the beautiful, unique rug could be satisfied.

While in Iran he commenced his book "A Scotsman and Persian Rugs", which he wrote in the manner of A. Cecil Edwards' classic work "The Persian Carpet", and which has remained unfinished. Always of delicate health and a very heavy smoker, he was found to have cancer of the stomach and returned to England where he died.

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Supporters boasted of glory night at Heysel, court told

Two Liverpool football supporters boasted about their "night of glory" in the Heysel soccer riots, a court was told yesterday.

"We would have been heroes if these people had not been killed," they said to reporters in a public house.

Terry Wilson, aged 29, and Steven McDonald, aged 19, were alleged to have said they led the charges that ended with 39 Juventus football fans being crushed to death.

The two fans, wearing Juventus woolly hats, met two *Sunday People* journalists in a Manchester public house shortly after the riot in May 1985.

Mr Alfred Leatham, one of the reporters, said Mr Wilson said: "We didn't know anybody had died that night until later, and we didn't believe the news when we first heard it."

"I feel sorry for the people who died, but I am still proud of what we did."

Mr Wilson, of Norville Road, Broad Green, Liver-

pool, and Mr McDonald, of Elgin Court, Rainhill, Merseyside, gave interviews to Mr Leatham and his colleague, Mr Alan Rimmer, when they returned to Liverpool. Both are accused with 24 others of the manslaughter of Mario Roschi, an Italian, aged 42.

In evidence at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, where extradition proceedings were being continued yesterday, Mr Leatham said he had taken a short-handled note of the interview.

Mr Wilson told him the Juventus supporters panicked and started running all over the place. He said he was giving one of them a "bladder" when a police officer hit him across the back with a post. "I laughed at him then I decked him," he said.

Mr McDonald allegedly told the reporters that outside the ground he had a drink and played football with the Italian fans. "When I got into the ground things just changed

somehow. We were surrounded by Italians and they were giving us a hard time.

"They were throwing bottles and a lot of them had great big knives," he said. He denied the National Front had been involved in the start of the riot. "We started it to try to save our lads," he reportedly said.

"We knew there was going to be trouble. Something like that happens at big football matches," Mr McDonald said.

Mr Rimmer said Mr Wilson and Mr McDonald were "gloating and sneering" about the riots.

Mr Wilson told Mr Rimmer that at the fruit market where he worked was a sign "Liverpool 0 Juventus 39".

Mr Eric Goldstein, for the defence, accused the reporters of putting "leading" questions to the two fans.

But Mr Rimmer denied it, saying that everything he said was true.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Ex-police chief in sex whip denial

A former police chief was yesterday accused of lying after he denied taking part in whipping sessions with a woman called Agatha at the home of Mrs Cynthia Payne.

Peter Jones, a former chief superintendent in the Metropolitan Police, told Inner London Crown Court that he had been to three or four of Mrs Payne's parties after retiring from the force in 1979.

But he denied an allegation that he had gone there for "sexual stimulation" and to take part in whipping sessions.

Mr Paul Bailey, an author who wrote a biography on Mrs Payne called *An English Madam*, told the court that he had spoken to a former superintendent at one of Mrs Payne's parties who enjoyed being whipped.

The book says a superintendent asked a woman called Agatha to give him "a good hiding". At first she was reluctant but they then went upstairs and "once she got the swing of it, she couldn't stop herself".

The woman says: "Suddenly it gave me a lovely feeling to punish that policeman. The ex-superintendent enjoyed it too."

Mr Tony Longden, for the prosecution, suggested that the superintendent in the book and Mr Jones were the same person. Mr Jones said they were not.

Mr Longden asked how many other ex-superintendents he had met at Mrs Payne's parties. He said none, but he thought he had met a former police sergeant.

Mr Longden said the two men were obviously the same

person and accused him: "You are a liar, Mr Jones."

"I am not, sir," he said emphatically.

Mr Longden also challenged Mr Bailey about the unnamed superintendent. Mr Bailey said that he had got his information from Agatha and later met the superintendent at a party. But it was not Peter Jones, he said.

Mr Bailey, who attended several of Mrs Payne's parties, said they were very respectable. "It was rather like a vicarage tea party with sex thrown in at the end."

"I was not what one conventionally thinks of as a sex orgy. It was a kind of contained outrageousness," he said.

Terry Jones, the Monty Python comic, told the court that he attended two of Mrs Payne's parties while doing research for a film he was making about her life.

"But I didn't go as far in my research as to go upstairs," he said.

"I was rather relieved to find there was a very gentle atmosphere, very ordinary in a way. It was in complete contrast to what you imagine as a sex party and the reality."

He said he spoke to several people, including a masseuse called Melanie who gave him a pink calling card.

"She thought I was very shy, which made me feel a bit silly," he said.

Mr Jones said that he was not asked for a fee at either of the parties he attended, and did not see anyone else hand over money.

The case continues on Monday.

Vangelis's composing 'problem'

Vangelis, the Greek composer, who is accused of copying another musician's work for his Oscar-winning theme tune, "Chariots of Fire", has difficulty composing music, a former collaborator told the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Costas Ferris, a lyric writer, who worked with Vangelis in the early 1970s, was asked about Vangelis's strengths and weaknesses as a composer.

Mr Ferris told Mr Justice Whitford: "Vangelis is a fantastic sound producer and an exceptional arranger. He is a very, very good atmosphere producer. He has a little difficulty in composing precise melodies or romantic melodies."

Mr Ferris also worked with Mr Stavros Logarithis, the little-known Greek composer whose composition, "The City of Violets", was allegedly copied by Vangelis. He said that when he first heard "Chariots of Fire", he was sure he had heard it before.

Mr Ferris was giving evidence for EMI Music Publishing, which publishes Mr Logarithis's music. EMI is seeking an injunction banning Vangelis, of Queensgate, South Kensington, west London, and three publishers from breaching copyright, and a court order requiring them to hand over all records and sheet music of "Chariots of Fire" in their possession.

The company also wants an inquiry into damages. It was said in court that Mr Logarithis is claiming up to £2 million. The case continues.

Marketing men plan 'year of the snail'

By Craig Seton

A British assault on the high peaks of French gastronomy was launched in Birmingham yesterday when a national plan to breed edible snails for export to France was unveiled.

More than 80 marketing people gathered at a Birmingham hotel for the country's first snail seminar, aimed at exploiting the biggest market for "les escargots" in the world.

They were told that while the French lead the world in snail consumption - 50,000 tonnes a year - they are poor at breeding their own and have a shortfall of 18,000 tonnes a year (at 100,000 snails per tonne).

Mr Roy Groves, founder of the Snail Centre, an advisory service based at Colwyn Bay, North Wales, organized yesterday's seminar because he believed that while the British are enthusiastic about eating snails - a paltry 500,000 a year - they could become successful snail farmers.

He said: "The French cannot get enough of them. They grow them in a thoroughly old-fashioned way and cannot satisfy demand. This is such an opportunity for us. It is the year of the snail."

Mr Groves said there were now about 12 places, including an accountant and a vet, ready to start snail farms in Britain.



Richard Veal, an insect keeper at London Zoo, with an edible giant African land snail that was confiscated by a landlady from one of her tenants who had brought it into the UK from Africa with the intention of enjoying a tasty snack (Photograph: John Rogers).

Playground murderer given indefinite custody

A boy aged 14 who stabbed and killed another boy in a fight at a school playground was yesterday sentenced to be detained indefinitely.

An inquiry has been ordered into the situation at the school by Manchester City Council. It will be headed by Mr Ian Macdonald, a barrister.

Darren Coulburn, of Em-

wood Road, Burnage, Manchester, showed no emotion when the jury returned a unanimous verdict at Manchester Crown Court after nearly four hours' deliberation. He had denied the murder of Ahmed Ullah, aged 13, at Burnage High School last September.

The jury was told that

Ahmed, of Danescroft Close, Burnage, intervened when Coulburn threw another boy's football out of the school grounds. Later Coulburn bullied the boy whose football he had taken.

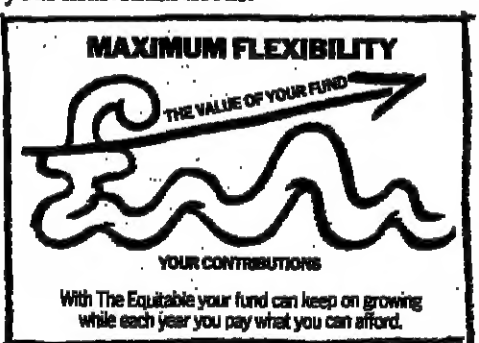
Later Coulburn was said to have boasted to friends: "I am going to have a Paki fight. I am going to kill him."

In 1985 teachers at the school wanted Burnage expelled after he and another boy burnt down the art block causing more than £50,000 of damage.

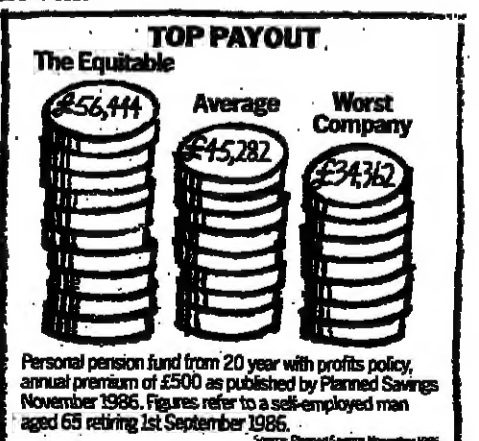
After the fire a schools inspector said the behaviour of pupils at the all-boys school ranked with the worst he had experienced.

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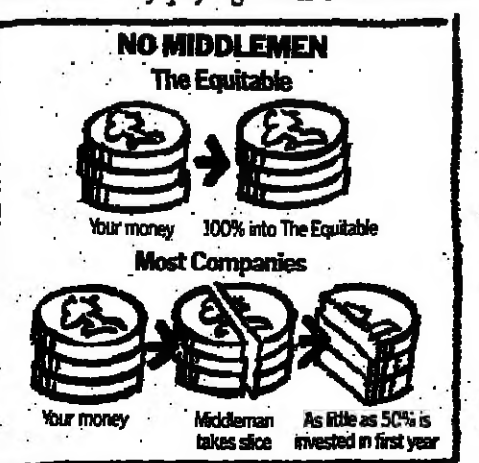


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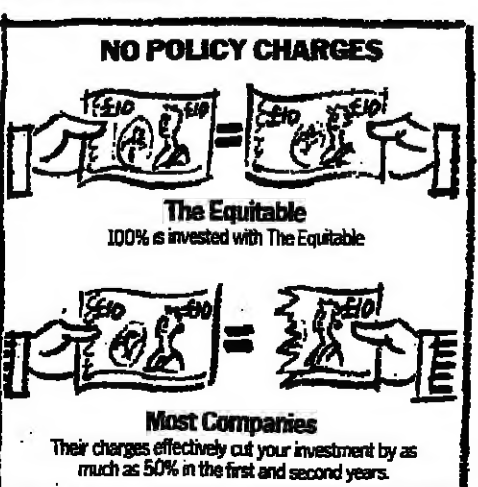
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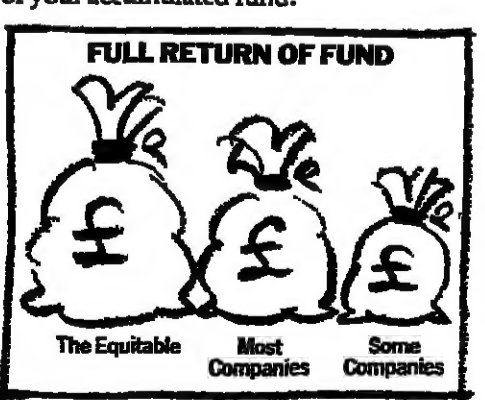
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Group fights cheap loans for part-time staff

The Norwich Union insurance group plans to go to the High Court to fight a ruling which would entitle 600 part-time staff, mostly women, to cheaper mortgages.

At present, only full-time staff enjoy this facility. However, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) says the ruling from the Central Arbitration Committee would end indirect sex discrimination, and have a major impact on equal opportunities.

Out of 600 part-time staff only six are men. The Norwich Union has been told by the Arbitration Committee to change its mortgage allowance scheme to give part-timers the same rights.

Mr Ken Hurst, a spokesman for Norwich Union, said yesterday: "We are planning to seek leave to apply to the High Court for a judicial review of the decision."

"This will be somewhat of a test case. If the ruling goes ahead then it will have repercussions throughout the business world."

"I don't think any similar firm offers cheap mortgage facilities to part-time staff."

Free issue of condoms unlikely in near future

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

The Government is unlikely to sanction the free issue of condoms in the near future as part of its crusade against Aids.

The Cabinet committee established to draw up measures to stop the spread of the virus has decided to stop short of giving out condoms as it believes any advantage would be outweighed by the storm that would follow.

It considers there is a difference between advising people to use condoms, as done in the public information campaign, and handing them out when they are already free from family planning clinics and are inexpensive when bought elsewhere.

Ministers are pleased about the impact made by the anti-Aids warnings given in leaflets and adverts, but they do not know yet if they will lead to a change in sexual behaviour.

The feedback from the campaign is considered as good as could be expected. There have been those who believe all advertisements should be aimed at homosexuals, which ministers believe would be a great mistake - and wrong since the virus can be easily

transmitted heterosexually. The Government has taken care to avoid the Aids issue being used to attack homosexuals.

Downing Street sources made clear yesterday that the Cabinet committee had not yet discussed the anonymous Aids screening of patients.

Sir Donald Acheson, the Government's chief medical officer, told the Social Services select committee this week that blood could be taken from patients and tested for Aids without their knowledge.

There has been concern in Government circles that the tighter laws on product liability, at present going through Parliament, might deter firms putting anti-Aids vaccines on the market because of the dangers of side-effects arising and causing another thalidomide-type tragedy.

The Consumer Protection Bill makes manufacturers liable for prosecution if products are found to be dangerous or defective. But under the Bill as it stands they can argue that the state of knowledge at the time of manufacture did not enable them to know that the product might be defective.

'Mr T' double led mob, say police

A man leading rioters on the Broadwater Farm estate resembled "Mr T", the stocky black character with a Mohican hairstyle from the TV series, *The A Team*, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Sgt Paul Nevens, one of a mobile squad of police whose van was "engulfed" by a chanting mob, said he saw the tall black man at two different locations during the Tottenham disturbances.

He first noticed the man, who was dressed in green combat clothing and wielding a machete, as he whipped up a crowd rocking the police van and shouting: "Get in, get in. Kill them, kill them."

The officer was giving evidence on the thirteenth day of the trial of six people accused of murdering PC Keith Blakelock, aged 40, on October 6, 1985.

The six, also accused of riotous assembly and affray, are Winston Silcott, aged 27, greengrocer, of Maresfield, Broadwater Farm estate; Mark Braithwaite, aged 20, unemployed, of Canonbury Villas, Islington; Engin Raghip, aged 20, unemployed, of Finsbury House, Partridge Way, Wood Green, all north London; and three juveniles, two aged 15 and one 16. All deny the charges.

Sgt Nevens said he had gone into the estate with about a dozen members of a district support unit in their vehicle, behind a similar squad.

Underneath a block on the estate, called Stapleford, he saw about 200 youths dressed in combat fatigues.

The two police vans found their escape blocked by a car. "This enabled the mob of 200-plus to catch up with our car, which was now on fire at the rear from petrol bombs and had petrol dripping into the vehicle," he said.

During the attack on his van, Sgt Nevens said he saw a youth run up to the side of the vehicle waving what appeared to be a handgun at him.

The case continues on Monday.

Lawyers accused of blocking rivals in property market

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Some 150 licensed conveyancers are expected to start work in competition with solicitors in the spring after passing the first round of examinations to be held by the new Council for Licensed Conveyancers.

Of the 400 people who took the examinations, 160 have passed the papers they needed to be able to apply for a licence from the council. A total of 277 passed in part.

But the failure rate was attacked yesterday by Mr Ken Weetch, Labour MP for Ipswich, who said that clearly the examinations had been set at a standard designed to "eliminate the independent conveyancer".

"People who have been doing conveyancing for years, including the man who did my own conveyancing, have failed," he said.

Mr Weetch said he would be raising the matter with the Lord Chancellor as well as seeking an urgent meeting with the National Association of Conveyancers. "The legal profession has succeeded in tightening its grip even further

on conveyancing," Mr Weetch said. The Council for Licensed Conveyancers yesterday defended the pass rate, saying it was as it had expected.

Mrs Rachel Waterhouse, chairman, said: "We have to consider that when these people are given their licences, they can set up on their own. We have to protect the public."

"We felt that it was important that the standards should be right from the start."

A council spokesman added that this first round of examinations had been held in December, slightly earlier than intended, because they had wanted to get the first licensed conveyancers off the ground.

The examinations involved two papers: conveyancing and accounts. "We consulted with the existing conveyancing organizations and they agreed that as far as the conveyancing paper went, all conveyancers should be able to pass it."

They were less keen however on the accounts paper. "But this includes a question, for example, accounting for

half the marks, which requires the examinee to draw up a final statement for the client showing details of the conveyancing transaction. If they can't do that, they shouldn't be doing conveyancing."

The council received just under 1,000 inquiries since being set up to supervise the training and licensing of non-lawyer conveyancers.

Of these, nearly 300 were from solicitors, who did not need to take the examinations but were seeking licences because the new licensed conveyancers will be able to form mixed partnerships with other professionals. Solicitors are prohibited at present from doing this and they would have to stop practising as a solicitor if they took up a licence.

The council has written to the Lord Chancellor asking for a delay in the proposed change in the law which will then exclude all but solicitors and licensed conveyancers from conveyancing work, until after the next round of examinations in July.

Scientists tune in to effect of whispering

By Robin Young

Researchers are attempting to discover why a whisper is as disruptive to concentration as a shout — and worse than either industrial noise or music.

A team of three from the applied psychology department of the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff, is to receive a government grant of £31,000 to complete the two-and-a-half year study.

Dr Dylan Jones, a senior lecturer, said yesterday: "The value of silence in libraries and classrooms is well-known, but exactly why other people's voices distract us is much less well-understood."

The research programme involves putting volunteers into a sound laboratory and asking them to make proof corrections or memorize material while sounds are played in the background.

So far the researchers have established that the disruptive effect of other people's speech is not related to volume.

"A whisper can be as distracting as loud shouting," Dr Jones says, "which means that where maximum concentration at work is required it is no use attenuating the noise."

"It has to be eliminated completely."

On the other hand, the disruptive effect of speech is related to meaning.

Tapes played backwards or Welsh-language conversation played to monoglot English speakers have no effect on reading ability, although they do apparently upset the memory function.

Music with words is disruptive: music without much less so.

The scientists hope their work may improve understanding of the way in which the eye and the ear interrelate.

It may, they say, have an important effect on the future design of work places such as flight decks and control rooms, where close concentration is essential.



Angela Ward, aged 30, and her baby son, Trevelyan, gather the crop for the daffodil harvest which is in full swing on the Isles of Scilly. The Ward family has been growing "Soleil D'Or" daffodils at their farm on St Mary's for four generations (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

Fund to fight New Forest by-pass

By David Sapsford

A fighting fund to oppose proposals for a by-pass which threatens to destroy a huge area of the New Forest was launched by more than a half-dozen environmental groups yesterday.

The Foresters of the New Forest — charged by the crown for protecting the woodland — described Hampshire County Council's proposed route for a by-pass of the village of Lyndhurst, near Southampton, as "the most serious incursion into the 'open forest' for 30 years".

Opponents of the by-pass have proposed an alternate route.

Three jailed in kidnap plot

Three members of a kidnap gang who acted like "Chicago Mobsters" when they snatched a Norwegian businessman from Heathrow Airport last May have been jailed for a total of 28 years.

At Leicester Crown Court yesterday Judge Edwin Jowitt, QC, jailed James Gardner — son of the former British heavyweight boxing champion Jack Gardner — of Main Street, Great Bowden, Leicestershire, who admitted a charge of blackmail, for eight years. Kevin Brennan, 22, of Morland Avenue, Leicester, who denied the charge, received an eight year sentence.

A third man who could not be named because of reporting restrictions but described as the "Mr Big" was jailed for 12 years.

Policeman for trial

A police officer alleged to have lied about people he arrested being in possession of drugs, and stolen cocaine, was committed to the Central Criminal Court for trial at Bow Street Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Edward Grier, aged 32 formerly of Fulham Police Station, faces seven charges including robbery, conspiracy, possessing drugs, and perverting the course of justice, between 1982 and 1984.

£140m frigate

HMS London, a £140 million Type 22 frigate, became the Royal Navy's newest warship when she was accepted from her builders yesterday at Portsmouth.

Bird menace

British Rail is to install "screech" alarms at Long Eaton station, Derbyshire, to frighten away an estimated 100,000 starlings which roost there at night for warmth.

12 years for sex attacker

A sex attacker slashed a teenage girl's throat to turn his dangerous and deviant sexual fantasies into reality. Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

John Warburton, aged 25, admitted to detectives he inflicted that and other horrific injuries on the girl aged 17, Mr Rhys Davies, for the prosecution, said.

Warburton, who left his victim naked in a field, after the attack last March, was jailed for 12 years after pleading guilty to wounding with intent, indecent assault and possessing a firearm.

After threatening the girl with an imitation pistol Warburton, of Dewbury Close, Swinton, Greater Manchester, carried out "a dreadful indecent assault," Mr Davies said.

Mr Rodney Klevan, QC, for the defence, said: "What is abundantly clear is the defendant had dangerous and deviant sexual fantasies and on this occasion turned them into reality."

Warburton was jailed for 12 years on the wounding charge, eight years for indecent assault and five on the firearm charge, the last two to run concurrently.

Cable TV service faces law inquiry

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

The British cable television industry yesterday accused the Super Channel cable television service of bungling its launch and failing to deliver its promises.

Authorities in The Netherlands said they were launching an investigation into Super Channel because of reports that its departure from its announced plans may have violated Dutch law.

Mr Nicholas Mellersh, director of the Cable Television Association, which represents cable systems providing Super Channel to 93,000 British homes, described the management of Super Channel as "a bunch of amateurs".

He said they have done "major damage" to the credibility of the cable industry in Britain and the British programme industry in Europe.

He said Super Channel had been "grossly irresponsible to launch without clearing residual and rights problems", and that it was "absolute madness to have agreed to a system of residuals where individual artists can block the transmission of a programme".

published programme schedule "is totally meaningless" and that his members feel "grossly misled".

In The Hague, the Ministry of Culture said it was seeking clarification from Super Channel on reports that it had started blocking selected programmes from British homes, for which the service had obtained European rights but not British ones.

Mr Peter Van Moort, a legal adviser to the ministry, said Dutch law requires that the programme service received in Holland be identical to the one available in the country of origin.

On Thursday night, executives of Super Channel acknowledged that it was having to withdraw six hours a day of scheduled programmes because it had failed to secure performance consents from actors.

The channel, owned by all the ITV companies, except Thames, and Mr Richard Branson's Virgin Group, claims to be available to 6.7 million European homes, comprising a potential audience of 20 million viewers.

Its launch last weekend, received enthusiastic support from Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Cash boost for transplants

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A third national centre for liver transplants is to be set up at St James' Hospital in Leeds and heart transplants for children are to start at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London.

The developments come after an announcement that spending on these and other specialized services is to increase from £31.5 million a year to £40 million.

Spending on heart transplants is to rise by more than £1.5 million which will go to the three existing heart transplant centres at Papworth, Harfield and Newcastle and

Elizabeth Centre, Birmingham.

The Government has also announced that a second supra regional unit for specialized liver services is to be set up at the Birmingham Children's Hospital in addition to the unit at King's College Hospital, London. An extra £702,000 has been provided centrally for these services.

St James' Hospital in Leeds, has already carried out three liver transplants in the past year but within the next five years it hopes to develop a programme to perform 20 transplants a year.

Allocations for liver transplants will rise by £737,000 to almost £3.3 million which will go to the two centres at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the Queen

birks for a fourth centre, due to start in 1989 are now being considered by the Government.

The additional money reflects an increase in the number of heart transplants performed in the past two years.

In 1984 only 116 were carried out, increasing to 137 in 1985. But an estimated 200 transplants were performed last year.

Allocations for liver transplants will rise by £737,000 to almost £3.3 million which will go to the two centres at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the Queen

Supply of credit cards out of control, says poll

Most people believe the availability of credit cards in Britain is out of control, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

Almost half those in the 16-25 age group know someone who has got into serious financial difficulties because of a credit card.

The findings are disclosed in a nationwide Gallup Poll conducted among 999 people aged over 16, between January 28 and February 2. The poll comes at a time when 24 million credit cards are in circulation in Britain — the highest per head of population among EEC countries.

Government figures published last month showed that the British owed more than five times as much in consumer credit in 1985 as in 1976.

There have been recent warnings from the Bank of England and Citizens Advice Bureau about the surge in personal debt caused by easier credit terms.

Seventy per cent of those polled said they believed the availability of credit to shoppers in Britain was not

property controlled, while only 14 per cent thought it was.

Thirty six per cent said they did not believe banks took enough care checking the financial suitability of credit card applicants.

Thirty eight per cent believe high street stores do not make enough checks before issuing credit cards.

February 6 1987

PARLIAMENT

Dalyell allegations rebutted

Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP who has complained over many months about the way the Official Secrets Acts were used and has accused the Government of being involved in the recent search of BBC Scotland, was told in the Commons either to produce the evidence for his allegations or to keep quiet.

Mr Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) said that there seemed to be no prosecution policy for the distinguished and another for the humble.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said that the police investigation into allegations that Lord Rothschild and Mr Chapman Pincher had committed offences under the Official Secrets Acts was continuing.

No decision could be taken until the Director of Public Prosecutions had been given the police report.

On points made by Mr Dalyell during the earlier debate on a Bill of Rights, he said that there was no evidence at all to indicate that Mr Bernard Sheldon, a Government official, had committed any offence under the Official Secrets Act.

Tory's Human Rights Bill falls at Commons procedural hurdle

The proposal by a Conservative MP to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law failed in the Commons when the supporters of the Bill failed to get the necessary backing to push the Bill through.

The technical motion of "closure" was carried by 94 votes to 16, but under Commons rules more than 100 MPs have to vote in favour of such a motion and therefore the Bill fell.

It is now unlikely to be given time for further debate during this session of Parliament.

Sir Edward Gardner (Fylde, C), moving the second reading of his Human Rights Bill, said that the greatness of the theme contrasted with the simplicity of the aim of this Bill. It was to incorporate into British law the European Convention on Human Rights so that Britons would be able to come "to their own courts, before their own judges, who would decide whether or not their rights were being abused or violated and whether those rights applied to a particular case they might at that time have before the court."

Anyone who suggested that these were foreign laws, foreign to British minds and spirits, had not read the articles of the

Convention, which Britain was the first country to ratify.

"We saw it in those days as a supreme instrument to guarantee our rights."

In 1951, when the Government ratified the Convention, it must have been assumed that the rights contained in it were covered by the law in this country as it then stood. He anticipated that MPs would be rising to say that the Convention was not needed, that it already existed and, if it did not, that problems could be dealt with as they arose.

"If any MP takes satisfaction in the difficulties, the delays and the cost that stand in the way of people going to Strasbourg and making sure they get their rights one can understand that he is not interested in the rights, does not want to have the Convention as part of our safeguards to our liberties and lives. It is all fine. We can all just relax and hope that the government of the day when the matter comes up will be reasonable."

Perhaps it was not altogether surprising that it could be said with some confidence that the support for this Bill and the incorporation into British law of the Convention that it would bring about was supported widely outside as well as inside

the House. Seventy-one per cent of the people who were questioned in the recent Gallup poll said it would increase their confidence in British democracy.

In 1951, when the Government ratified the Convention, it must have been assumed that the rights contained in it were covered by the law in this country as it then stood. He anticipated that MPs would be rising to say that the Convention was not needed, that it already existed and, if it did not, that problems could be dealt with as they arose.

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Scotland. No other state had lost so many cases before the Strasbourg court.

Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab) said that judges were insensitive to the needs of the public and far too sympathetic to the Establishment and were grossly negligent in their duties.

It was necessary to change that by educating them, intruding another element into the system to which they had to pay attention — this Convention and the rights it conferred on the people.

"We cannot now, if ever we could, rely on the standards and integrity of good, sound judges in power in Parliament and the judiciary. We now have a much more populist political climate. Those instincts can be nasty. We cannot trust them any longer. That is why we need the backing of a written Convention. Rights can in this new climate all too easily be trampled. We need a more democratic and more open legal profession which serves the people and not its own selfish interests."

Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Hexham, Lab) said that all governments of whatever persuasion had a tendency to be authoritarian and future ones might be even more so. That was why it was important today that MPs should demonstrate that their fine words and speeches were not merely sound and fury signifying nothing.

Parliamentary sovereignty would remain inviolate if the Bill became law. The Bill would help to ensure that the exercise of parliamentary sovereignty was subject to more careful scrutiny in so far as basic human rights and civil liberties were concerned. The Bill would provide a salutary check on the exercise of arbitrary power.

It could no longer be taken for granted that human rights in

this country and civil liberties needed no more protection than was provided by parliamentary vigilance. The Government should vote for this Bill on second reading and give it as fair a wind as it could.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) said there had been "un-British events" during the BBC searches in Scotland. He was a Scot with a lot of first-hand information and was in Scotland on Tuesday gathering facts.

Many Scottish policemen were appalled. They resented the very idea of rifling through the BBC with whom they had daily and friendly relations.

The Scottish police pressed the Metropolitan Police as to where the instructions had come from.

The police from Strathclyde had asked further questions and they were told explicitly by the Met that there was authority from Downing Street for entry and for the seizure of material.

They had the clear understanding that they had No 10 Downing Street as the authority for their action.

The Crown Office, alarmed at the enormity of what they were being asked to do, made a direct approach to Downing Street.

They were told what was expected of them, to allow Special Branch to take anything and everything from BBC Scotland. Ministers were by-passed. Guidance came from Bernard Sheldon and Downing Street.

"Surrounded as she (Mrs Thatcher) is by thugs in Downing Street, it is scarcely surprising that the wretched Lord Advocate and his officials were left in no doubt about what, to their distaste, they were told was their duty."

"What we are seeing is a parliamentary by-pass operation. I want to see responsibility and decisions come back to this House, not be taken by unelected persons over whom we have no control. That is why this Bill should have a second reading."

away by people unfamiliar with British circumstances and mores.

There were practical administrative problems involved in a sudden change of policy that could not just be dismissed as a pretext for resisting change, but they should not be an obstacle to the incorporation of the Convention into British law. This Bill was a major and justified step forward.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, said that the objective was to secure as best they might the underpinning by law of liberty. The judiciary must be seen to be impartial. More especially they must, so far as practicable, be kept clear of political controversy. Therefore Parliament had to take great care not to propel the judges into the political arena.

"That is what we do to them if we ask them to take policy decisions of a nature we ought properly to take ourselves and which presently under our constitution we do take ourselves. We make that danger worse if we require or permit them to alter or even reverse decisions already taken by Parliament."

He had for long felt that here lay the key to the general issue the House was debating. It was the factor above all which shaped the Government's attitude to this Bill and led him to be unable to recommend it to the House.

They did not need reminding that what was necessary in the interests of national security was sometimes controversial. There were fierce and genuine disagreements.

"We cannot escape the conclusion that if we pass this Bill we shall be thrusting the judges into the arena of political controversy."

The Bill did not exclude recourse to the Strasbourg court. Those who complained about time would see that the time to reach Strasbourg would be longer and not shorter.

Judges were preserved from making policy decisions at the moment. It was largely because of that that their reputation for political impartiality stood so high.

"My great fear is that, if we were to pass this Bill, that reputation for political impartiality would seriously decline with previously damaging results, not through the fault of the judges but because of the essentially political tasks with which we would be burdened them."

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Ceasefire deadline in the Philippines

Communist ranks split over return to negotiating table

From David Watts, Manila

The Philippines Government is waiting for a last-minute response from Communist insurgents as the deadline for the ending of their ceasefire approaches.

President Aquino has told her negotiators to seek an extension beyond Sunday, when the 60-day pact comes to an end. Already there have been signals from the National Democratic Front that they will not come back to the negotiating table after the killing of some 15 demonstrators at a farmers' protest rally two weeks ago, but the Communists have passed a message to the Government through an intermediary saying that they will give their decision before the deadline on Sunday.

The Government says there must be a prospect of substantive negotiations to justify continuation of the ceasefire. If the Communists fail to return to the negotiating table, the military will come on "little by little", said Mr Rafael Iloilo, the Minister of Defence. "The application of force will be gradual, very gradual."

According to a diplomatic source, the Communist movement is split between those who want the ceasefire to continue — not least because it will necessitate Mrs Aquino once again holding back the military, thus putting further strain on their relationship — and those who believe the Communists have already made all the propaganda gains

that they can. Beyond these two mainstreams there are various regional variations. In the southern Philippine city of Davao, the Communists did not turn up for their usual mid-week meeting with local officials, much against expectations.

In some areas of the country the Communists made no attempt to hinder the "Yes"

● The massive show of support for the Aquino Government will make it hard for the Communists to resume the war ●

vote for the new constitution and some government figures believe that the massive show of support for the Aquino Government will make it hard for the Communists to resume the war when the people have so clearly voted against it. The Government had, however, been resisting Communist negotiators' political demands for what would amount to a *de facto* coalition government.

A military source maintained that the division in the communist movement is between purists who are inclined to work for change through non-violent means and those with a Maoist approach. He said that the split within the movement was so serious that it could even lead to fighting within the New People's Army, the fighting arm of the Communist Party, which now fields about 20,000 armed fighters operating in 63 of the country's 74 provinces.

About 1,000 New People's Army or Communist Party of the Philippines cadres have come in since the ceasefire began, and more could come over once the Government's amnesty and rehabilitation programme is complete. At least one senior NPA commander who is a member of the movement's military commission is contemplating

accepting the Government's terms.

If the ceasefire does break down this weekend, the Aquino administration is planning initially to continue negotiations on a regional basis, even down to the municipal level.

Support for the NPA in regional areas has tended to decline since the Aquino Government came to power, because the number of abuses by government and the military has been drastically reduced and there is now a functioning and reasonably honest legal system for the handling of complaints. But the NPA has not stopped its "revolutionary taxation" system, under which local businessmen and professionals are made to fund the movement.

Given that the NPA no longer has the Robin Hood role of helping the distressed against the central gov-

ernment, resentment against them has risen and there is likely to be a further erosion of local support if the ceasefire comes to an end.

The Government, meanwhile, will open negotiations next week with Muslim rebel groups on their demand for an autonomous Muslim region in the south. The Government wants to be in a position to deal with all groups under a single umbrella.

To that end contacts have been taking place in Kuala Lumpur between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) of Nur Misuari and the group's reformist wing led by Dimas Pundato, which may join with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the negotiations with the Government.

The Manila Government is now faced with the possibility of war on both the communist and Muslim fronts simultaneously, something the Government could not sustain, according to Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, a former Defence Minister, dismissed by Mrs Aquino last year.

"Zamel and Ocampo (the communist negotiators) want a comprehensive political settlement," he said in an interview with *The Times*. "They're talking not just of land reform but the issue of power. What they want is to regulate the power of government. It's either you surrender to us or share power with us."

One year of exile for Duvaliers



The wife of ousted Haitian President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier skulking in the French Alpine resort of Isola on the eve of today's first anniversary of the uprising which forced the Duvalier family to flee the island.

But a year on, Haiti is a nation still impoverished, frustrated and with little to celebrate (Renter reports from Port-au-Prince).

The joy of "liberation" which sent hundreds of thousands dancing in front of the presidential palace has given way to disillusionment.

Haitians say that, for all but the wealthy and powerful few, things have gone from bad to worse and many predicted that today's planned celebrations to mark the flight of the Duvaliers could erupt into serious disturbances.

Delhi set for clash with Sikh hierarchy

From Kuldip Nayar

Delhi

The Government of India and the five Sikh high priests, who exert great influence over the Sikh population, are once again on a collision course.

The priests have summoned all members of Parliament and of the Punjab Assembly belonging to the Akali Dal, the Sikhs' representative organization, to come to the Akal Takht, the holiest Sikh religious centre, in Amritsar, by Sunday.

The Government, for its part, has warned that it will not tolerate the "machinations of communal, separatist and secessionist elements, no matter under what guise they were operating".

The response to the priests' summons may pick up as the days pass, thereby reducing Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, the Punjab Chief Minister, to a minority position in the Akali legislative party. He may still keep a majority in the House with the help of the Congress (I) members, but he has gone on record as saying that he will resign once he loses his majority in his own party.

Since the defeat of the Akali Dal faction led by Mr Barnala in elections to the Shromoni Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, which controls the Sikh temples, by a breakaway group led by Mr G.S. Tokra, the majority of Sikhs have tended to support the latter.

The central Government's policy is to support the Barnala group, hence its clash with the temple committee and its appointees, the five Sikh high priests.

All the factions of the Akali Dal have dissolved themselves on the insistence of the priests, who have named Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, a dismissed Indian police officer, detained in Bhopalpur, Bihar state, under the National Security Act, as chairman of a "Unified Akali Dal".

This move is apparently designed to put pressure on members of the ruling Akali Dal to submit their resignations to the priests and to make the position of Mr Barnala untenable.

It therefore looks as though the central Government might impose presidential rule in Punjab if Mr Barnala were forced to resign. So far, Delhi has allowed the Sikh Chief Minister to handle the Punjab situation himself.

Conflicting goals pursued in Peking clampdown

From Robert Grieser

Peking

As the campaign in China against Western liberal thought drags on into its second month, the country's leaders appear committed to a seemingly contradictory goal: maintaining strict ideological control over Chinese intellectuals while continuing economic reform policies.

Some Western economists have predicted that stifling free intellectual activity among young Chinese engineers, scientists and academics would consign to failure the reforms initiated by Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, in 1979.

Nevertheless, the principal reaction of China's Communist Party to the widespread student demonstrations that took place in China last December and in early January has been to promote just such control.

Among the so-called bourgeois liberals who have been dismissed from their posts as a result of the new campaign is Mr Hu Yaobang, who resigned as General Secretary of the party on January 16.

On Friday the State Council announced that it would require all work units in China to study China's constitution and legal system, in an effort to educate the population on

the dangers of "bourgeois liberalization".

In addition, China has begun handing out criminal sentences to those found promoting "bourgeois liberal" views. A recent issue of *China Legal News* reported that the editor of an obscure literary magazine, Mr Liu De, aged 29, had been sentenced to seven years in prison for "defying China's socialist system".

Mr Liu, from Mianyang city in Yunnan province, was the editor of *Jiannan Literature*. In a lecture to a local technical school he had reportedly "uglified" the socialist system by suggesting that in 20 years a new political party would

replace the Communist Party in China.

According to *China Legal News*, Mr Liu "chose a road of open hostility to the people" because he was unhappy. That accounted for his "desperate pursuit" of "the so-called democracy and freedom of capitalist countries".

In a further development on the ideological front, Friday's edition of *Liberation Daily*, the newspaper of the People's Liberation Army, carried a slogan-studded commentary that exhorted Chinese "to follow the example of Lei Feng".

During the 1960s Lei Feng was portrayed as a model

citizen, a young soldier who died in an accident and left a diary full of loyal party sentiments. "Imitate Lei Feng" was once one of Maoist China's most often repeated phrases.

Despite the return of socialist phrases and prison sentences for those who do not follow the correct party line, China is pushing ahead with its efforts to bring in needed foreign investment.

On January 27 the Ministry of Finance promulgated new regulations that simplify and clarify the taxation of foreign offices and firms in China.

These regulations are one of 16 sets of new laws that the central government has been

formulating in an attempt to amplify and expand an initial set of regulations issued last October. The first set of guidelines was designed to curb expenses and ease tax burdens on foreign firms operating in China.

Whether ideology prevails over such practical considerations remains to be seen. Japanese news agencies reported this week that Mr Gu Mu, a state councillor, recently told a visiting delegation of Japanese politicians that preferential treatment extended to foreign firms in China would have to be curtailed, and joint ventures must be more strictly controlled.

INSIDE ANTHONY BURGESS

The lowlife of a literary giant: exclusive extracts from his autobiography



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Spain's troubled North African enclave

Madrid opts for force to contain Melilla tension

From Richard Wigg
Melilla

The tension prevailing in this Spanish enclave of the North African coast increased yesterday when news spread of the death in a military hospital of a Muslim shot in the lung during a clash with Europeans during last weekend's violence.

Police patrols in the poorer Muslim suburbs were immediately stepped up, as the death of the 46-year-old man, of Moroccan nationality but residing in Melilla, came on top of the expiry of a three-day ultimatum put to the Government by the local Muslim community.

They had demanded the freeing of nine of their leaders, who were arrested, charged with sedition and transferred to a jail in the Spanish mainland after the weekend's violence.

The divisions between the

European population and the Muslims, who make up almost a third of the 75,000 inhabitants in the enclave, claimed by surrounding Morocco and situated 350 miles from Madrid, has now reached crisis proportions. Spain's Socialist Government has clearly opted to rely on a show of force to contain the situation.

Señor Manuel Céspedes, a former police chief selected last September by Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, to be the Government's chief representative in Melilla, warned the Muslims his policemen will act "as firmly as necessary" if the violence which badly jolted the enclave last weekend returns.

Something has gone badly wrong with the González Government's handling of the enclave's problems. Melilla is poorer than its sister enclave, Ceuta, opposite Gibraltar,

with greater economic inequalities between the two communities making the problems more acute.

You quickly leave the European centre of this free port, which lives by trading with the hinterland, past warehouses and army garrison installations for the 5,500 service personnel here and within 10 minutes reach the frontier.

It takes a good half an hour on the Moroccan side, waiting for the officials' attention, and then half an hour's drive to Nador, the nearest city where Aomar Muhammad Duda, who has made himself leader of Melilla's discontented Muslims has set up his headquarters.

There is an arrest warrant out for Señor Duda, a Spanish national, who has also been charged with sedition.

Over mint tea and spiced cakes, the 36-year-old economist from Málaga University and son of Melilla Muslim

traders insisted that he had nothing to do with last weekend's violence. He maintained that a gesture was now required from Señor González to put an integration policy for



the two communities back on the rails.

Señor Duda was appointed last autumn by the Madrid Interior Ministry as its official adviser on Muslim affairs.

"What has changed is the Spanish Government's attitude, not mine," he told me, denying Madrid's allegations

that he has become an agent for King Hassan of Morocco in a campaign of pressure to absorb Melilla.

"We are only asking for recognition of rights which are ours, to be treated as equals of other citizens in Melilla," he said.

"On the Muslim issue all the political parties in Melilla are alike, whether they are socialists, right-wingers or followers of Señor Adolfo Suárez," he said, emphasizing the Muslims' difficulties in obtaining Spanish nationality under a 1985 Aliens Law which ended a so-called statistical card which did not allow Muslims to leave the enclave for mainland Spain.

"I could not get into France demanding citizenship and a job there," a middle-aged European told me. "In Morocco they are dying of hunger and want to come here."

The man now uncomfortably in the middle is Señor

Gonzalo Hernández, Melilla's mayor, who was originally a school teacher from Castile. "If Morocco was really friendly towards us, they would not let Duda exile himself just over the frontier," he observed.

The mayor blames Señor Duda for upsetting a difficult equilibrium which Melilla must maintain. "We want to put a stop to past injustices to the Muslims, but Duda has put a brake on progress, deceiving his own people, with ruffians and criminals helping him."

The mayor, who points to a £43 million development plan for Melilla, largely to give the enclave's Muslim areas public utilities, puts the blame on the Franco regime for neglecting the underlying problems inherited by the Socialists when they came to power in 1982.

The Aliens Law must be implemented, he said. "This city's problems cannot be

solved unless the Government helps us with better frontier controls," he told me.

In last June's Spanish general elections, the Socialists lost all three of the enclave's MPs to the right-wing Popular Alliance.

Shortly afterwards Señor Céspedes's predecessor, a prominent member of the Socialist Party, was removed when Señor González bowed to a lengthy campaign against him by European elements claiming that he had been too sympathetic to the Muslims in applying the Aliens Law.

At a meeting of the special joint committee set up one year ago with a promise to speed nationality applications by Muslims, held last June, Señor Rafael Vera, number two man in the Madrid Interior Ministry, commented: "Perhaps the problem of Ceuta and Melilla has been tackled by the Government too late."

Leader of Soviet riot sent to camp

Moscow (Reuters) — A Kazakh officially described as an out-of-work alcoholic has been sentenced to 10 years in a labour camp for his part in nationalist-inspired riots in Soviet Kazakhstan.

The local party newspaper, *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*, said Mr. Asylbayev had incited a crowd to attack policemen and servicemen called out to quell disturbances in the streets of Alma-Ata on December 18.

Asylbayev was the first rioter reported in the official press to have been sentenced for his action.

The riots followed the removal of the Central Asian republic's ethnic Kazakh party leader, Mr. Danmukhamed Kunayev, and his replacement by a Russian national, Mr. Gennady Kolbin.

BBC warned

Colombo (AP) — The Sri Lanka Government has warned the BBC's correspondent in Colombo, John Rennie, against broadcasting "harsh" stories on the Tamil ethnic conflict.

Crash test

Tokyo (Reuters) — Test pilots re-enacted the yawing, rolling flight of a crippled jumbo jet to determine the cause of the world's worst air crash that killed 520 people in 1985.

Plane lost

Port Moresby (AP) — A commuter plane with 19 persons on board was missing yesterday in a remote archipelago north of Papua New Guinea.

Pit cave-in

Warsaw (AP) — One man was killed in a cave-in at a coal mine in southern Poland less than 24 hours after 17 workers died in a gas explosion at a nearby mine.

Fire deaths

Bangkok (AP) — Nineteen people were killed and six others injured when a fire raged through an illegal "sweat-shop" factory where more than 30 employees were sleeping.

Venal judges

Peking (AFP) — Two Chinese judges have each been sentenced to two years imprisonment for accepting bribes from a convict who was allowed to carry on trading while serving his jail term.

Modern times

New York (AP) — The Jewish Theological Seminary, America's leading school for conservative Judaism, is to certify women as cantors to lead services among the movement's one million followers.

Fake bills

Peking (Reuters) — Mr. Gan Yincheng, a village head in western China who tried to change fake \$5 million and \$1 million US dollar bills, has been fired. The *Sichuan Daily* reported.

Letter from Uttar Pradesh

On the trail of a tiger hunter

It is a pleasant conceit to imagine that you are riding in Jim Corbett's footsteps as you rock on elephant-back along a jungle path in the tiger reserve which bears his name.

Certainly the elephant is old enough to have carried him. Corbett left India in 1947, but the docile beast being prodded and kicked by her mahout is 80 years old and when she was born Corbett was but a railway contractor with many years to go before he found his niche as the most famous tiger hunter in the world.

Corbett Park has just celebrated its 50th anniversary as a nature reserve. It is proud to boast that, since it was nominated as the first park to participate in Project Tiger in 1973, the number of the big striped cats wandering its wilderness has more than doubled.

Not that the casual visitor would notice, however. It is my mournful duty to report that, after eight hours on the back of various elephants (including a positively juvenile 28-year-old), no tigers were visible.

A process of chill disappointment

It is all right if you are the Duke of Edinburgh. When he visited the Kanha National Park, 600 miles away in Madhya Pradesh, rangers were out spotting tigers all night, and by the time he arrived Jeeps were standing by to rush him to the spot where elephants were waiting only a few hundred yards from their lair.

For lesser mortals, a misty morning start, before the wintry sun can burn off the swirling damp, is the beginning of a process of chill disappointment. The elephants march along a well-worn vehicle track, a safari that, to be fair, is probably like taking a drive along the M4 hoping to see the Berkshire foxes. But the suspicion lingers that perhaps there are no tigers left.

There is evidence to the contrary, of course. The mahout, Subedar Ali, sitting up front, for instance, has his head wrapped in a green turban. His kindly folds conceal a set of dreadful scars and skin grafts he gained in a personal confrontation with a tiger.

Only last year a British birdwatcher, Mr David Hunt,

wandered off in pursuit of a horned owl and, practically stepped on a tiger, which promptly killed him. That tiger was given the benefit of the doubt and lived to kill again. It was trapped and now lives a life of penal remorse in Lucknow Zoo.

Tigers who lose their fear of man and become man-eaters are the main cause of resentment and public dislike of the national parks.

In order to combat these feelings, the Government automatically pays out 10,000 rupees (£500) for anyone killed by a tiger anywhere in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Likewise, the wildlife authorities paid out 200,000 rupees last year to people who lost domestic cattle to the jungle predators.

At least Corbett has not suffered as Ranthambhor Park, in neighbouring Rajasthan, did early last autumn. There the drought so depleted grazing outside the park that angry villagers, seeing the lush growth reserved for deer and wild cattle, marched in and seized control of it.

Control of the man-eaters is how Jim Corbett made his name. He did not start writing until the age of 69, but rapidly became famous through such works as *The Man-Eaters of Kumaon*, which was translated into 14 European and 11 Indian languages.

He was born in Nainital, just 20 miles into the Kumaon hills from the park, and after taking three British officers on a duck-shoot, in which 300 birds were senselessly slaughtered, vowed never to take game purely for the thrill of killing. He won the kind of legendary status formerly given to dragon-killers for his skill, his jungle craft and bravery in tackling tigers or other big cats found guilty of eating man.

When the park close to his home was founded in 1936 it was called Hailey Park, after the Governor of the United Provinces (later renamed Uttar Pradesh) who was largely responsible for promoting the legislation setting it up.

In 1900 it was estimated there were 40,000 tigers in India. By 1970 a census showed there were 1,800. Today, thanks to the parks like Corbett and to the concern for conservation Corbett exemplified, that number has more than doubled.

Michael Hamlyn

Russians likely to set space record

Moscow (Reuters) — Two Soviet cosmonauts headed for the orbiting space station Mir in their Soyuz TM-2 craft yesterday and Western experts expect them to try to break the record for staying in space.

The vehicle carrying Commander Yuri Romanenko, aged 42, and flight engineer Alexander Laveikin, 35, is one of a new generation of manned Soviet spacecraft.

Moscow television carried a live broadcast of the launch, underlining the confidence of Soviet space directors in their programme and the importance which they attach to the Mir orbiting platform.

Launched in February last year, it is designed to become the heart of the world's first permanently manned space station. The cosmonauts will dock their craft with Mir tomorrow, Tass said.

Western specialists said they expected the cosmonauts to stay up to 290 days in space, 53 days longer than the 237-day endurance record set up by cosmonauts Leonid Kizim, Vladimir Solovoyev and Oleg Atkov in 1984.

Tass said the cosmonauts would perform scientific research on board Mir. A module for astrophysical experiments is due to dock with the station during their mission.

After attaching their Soyuz craft, one of the cosmonauts' first tasks will be to unload food and other provisions from a Progress 27 tanker-transport vehicle which was launched on January 16 and docked automatically with Mir two days later.

The progress of the Soviet space effort has contrasted with setbacks in the US programme, notably the Challenger shuttle explosion.

The head of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Mr James Fletcher, said in Washington this week that he believed the US might have lost the lead in manned space flight.



Commander Yuri Romanenko, front, and his flight engineer, Alexander Laveikin, waving goodbye before the launch, right, of their Soyuz spaceship from the Baikonur cosmodrome yesterday on a mission to the Mir orbiting space station.

Tears and rage at story of Barbie raid

From Philip Jacobson
Lyons

Vital new evidence linking the imprisoned Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie to the disappearance of more than 80 Jews seized on his orders in wartime Lyons was presented here yesterday by the renowned Nazi hunter, M Serge Klarsfeld.

Brandishing a slim yellow booklet which he has just completed, the French lawyer — whose father died in a concentration camp — claimed that his exhaustive research had established beyond doubt that Barbie, now awaiting trial for crimes that took place when he ran the Gestapo in Lyons, had dispatched all those captured in a raid on a Jewish organization

in the Rue St Catherine to certain death.

"Until today, we knew a great deal about this particular tragedy, but never enough to convict the man behind it," Maître Klarsfeld told a meeting at a suburban technical college attended by leaders of Lyons's large Jewish community. "At last we now have the true and undeniable facts."

Speaking for almost an hour, the leather-jacketed lawyer maintained that Barbie's defence was planning to argue that the Jews of Rue St Catherine had been betrayed by other French Jews seeking to save their own skins. "The only way in which we can overcome such base tactics is to offer the truth with total precision and objectivity."

As Maître Klarsfeld read

out extracts from the letters some of Barbie's captives had managed to smuggle out before being sent to a death camp, there were gasps from the audience.

"It's very easy for Barbie's defence to cry fake, fake, whenever they are confronted by damning evidence," Maître Klarsfeld continued. "I can tell you, from personal experience of watching him when he is confronted by those who have survived, he shows not the slightest trace of compassion or concern."

Maître Klarsfeld believes that the much-delayed trial of the Butcher of Lyons — who was extradited from Bolivia exactly four years ago — will certainly begin this year. In June or after the summer holidays. He expects Barbie's

chief defence lawyer, the flamboyant Maître Jacques Vergès, to continue challenging the authenticity of each allegation.

By the time Maître Klarsfeld had finished his presentation, emotions were running high among many of the audience. There were angry murmurs when French journalists asked if the release of this new information about the Rue St Catherine raid was timed to influence the authorities mounting the trial.

Not at all, retorted Maître Klarsfeld: "We are concerned here with establishing the facts about one of the most damaging of the three charges remaining against this man. We are talking, after all, about one of the architects of the Final Solution in France."

Wealth gets low rating in American dream

From Charles Bremner, New York

Forget the dreams purveyed by *Dallas* and *Dynasty*. Most Americans put the pursuit of riches far down the scale when it comes to defining success, according to a national poll.

A full 95 per cent of Americans consider that being a good parent is the most important element of success. After parenthood, a happy marriage was deemed the next most important, closely followed by a happy relationship with another person.

The Roper organization, which arranged the poll for *The Wall Street Journal*, said their sample of citizens rated a high-paying job and having power and influence 10th and 11th in the list. The poll set out to see if the American dream still existed and con-

cluded that it did. Eighty-six per cent of Americans think the dream is alive.

This included the baby boom generation of 25 to 40-year-olds who are said by the experts to have lower real incomes than their parents' generation.

When it came to defining the dream, wealth came bottom out of 10 elements. Top came a high school education, followed by freedom of choice, owning a home and giving one's children a college education. Americans proved surprisingly modest in their view of how much income was needed to fulfil all their dreams. The average figure for this was \$30,000 (£33,000) for a household. The current average is \$23,000.

Sanctions warning to Africa

From Jan Raath
Harare

The annual meeting between Southern Africa's economic union and Western donors ended in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, yesterday, with the Western participants expressing serious concern about the region's future.

The nine-nation Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference, formed in 1980 to help reduce the region's economic dependence on South Africa, had by the end of the two-day meeting received both promises of new aid to protect their economies against South African aggression and dire warnings against imposing sanctions against Pretoria.

According to the latest figures available, about 60 per cent of the trade traffic of the nine countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) passes either directly into South Africa or in transit through its ports.

Mr Peter McPherson, the Director of the United States Agency for International Development, told the 1,200 delegates that the region was to receive \$93 million (£62 million) from America over the next 18 months for a wide variety of projects.

Western delegates warned that action against Pretoria would result in severe damage to the SADC economies. "It would be tragic if the future of this region is mortgaged by counter-productive rearmaments or further sanctions... which would jeopardize the economic future of all the parties in the subcontinent," Mr McPherson said.

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SPORTS DIARY

Simon Barnes

Isis crisis déjà vu

As faction and transatlantic schism take their toll in the Great Oxford Boat Race Mutiny it seems increasingly clear that Oxford will win the actual race by six lengths. At least, that is what happened in 1959 when American-led mutineers tore the crew apart and sought the sacking of the president, Ronnie Howard. The man behind that rebellion was Reed Rubin of Yale and Merion. Then as now, the teaming methods were a large part of the trouble: six Blues from the victorious crew of the previous year were refusing to row with the president. Rubin said he was going to form a "pirate crew" and row in the Head of the River race if he did not get his way. Cambridge put its oar in, saying it would not support its president. Another American-Oxford oarsman, named Grimes, walked out of the crew when the coach, Jumbo Edwards, forbade him to wear his much-loved engine-driver's hat in the boat. Rubin the Rebel announced: "I will not row in the same boat as Howard even if asked." But he was not asked. He was sacked. Four of the former rebels promptly came to heel and rowed in the Boat Race. And won.

Racing mode

Santa Anita racecourse in California, beneath the San Gabriel mountains, is one of the world's most attractive racetracks, as I learned while playing truant from the Super Bowl media crush the other week. Less exquisitely tasteful than the surroundings were the colours worn by the jockeys. "Chocolate brown, white horse-shoe on back," began one of the more restrained examples. "Apple green, gold horse-head wreath on white ball on back," was another. My favourite was: "Aqua, pink lightning bolt on back, pink cap," which perhaps the Queen should adopt. Readers are invited to design racing colours for the famous in the same vein: I will send a *Times* fiver to the ones I like best.

● All right, this is positively the last story about the Super Bowl. But it's an important one. Did you realize that Neil Diamond's time of one minute flat was the fastest singing of *The Star Spangled Banner* given by a major performer at a major sporting event?

Botham's cut

Ian Botham will be playing for Queensland instead of England from next winter, says he is taking the job for the sake of his family, and to remove them from the media glare. But there are compensations for our beleaguered boy. His Australian agent, Tom Byron, has already drawn up contracts with a property company, a fast-food chain, an airline and, yes, a brewery, which together will be worth A\$500,000. Byron thinks Botham could "easily" bring this up to A\$1 million.

Pen friend

One of the most treasured items in sport is to go on display at the Oval. It is a fountain pen given by Jack Hobbs to Douglas Jardine, the former England captain, to commemorate Hobbs's beating of W. G. Grace's record of 125 first-class centuries. (Jardine had been Hobbs's batting partner on the day he equalled the record.) Jardine later presented the pen to an Australian journalist who had ghosted some pieces for both himself and Hobbs. The journalist, Clif Cary, recently died and left the pen to his friend Alec Bedser so that Bedser could place it in state at the Oval.

Muskett shot

"Because it's there" is one reason why some people undertake wild and impossible challenges. Another is "because I am completely off my head." For whatever reason, a chap called Andy Muskett plans to have a shot at running the length of Death Valley in the Nevada Desert in September. The 250-mile trot will take him through temperatures that start below freezing-point and go up to 140°F in the shade, and shade isn't one of the most notable features of Death Valley. Muskett will set off each day at 9am clad in white with all the exposed bits of him covered in white cream. At 1pm he will take a break for a high-carbohydrate meal. After running all morning through the desert, a plate of spaghetti is just what I would feel like, too.

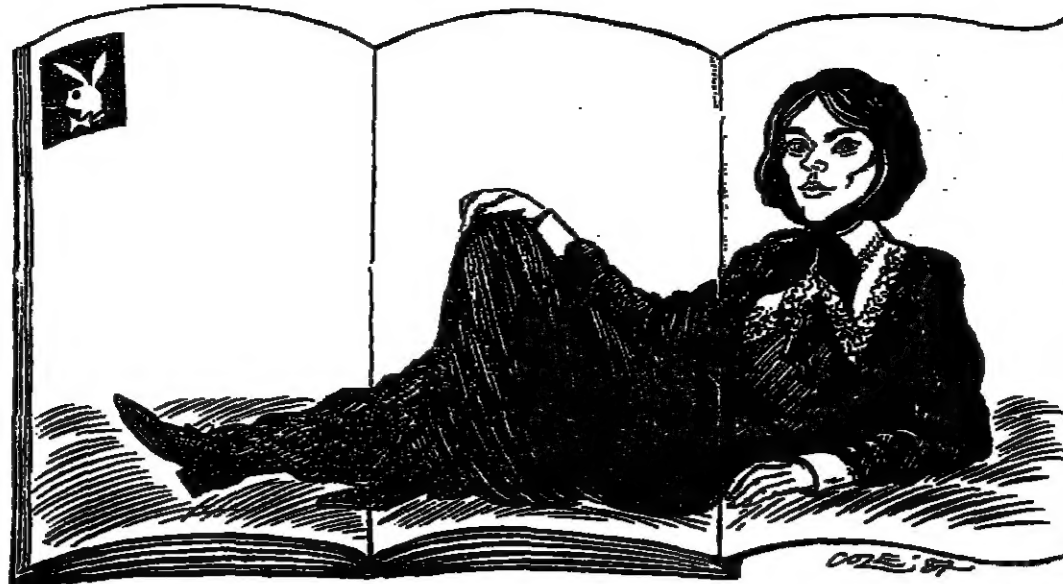
BARRY FANTONI



"Ironically, really, being caged up like animals."

The fruit of the Age of Aquarius is the new age of puritanism

Charles Bremner
reports from New York on a growing trend toward older values and clean living



After the age of liberation, America seems to be heading with mixed enthusiasm for an era of restraint. With the ever-growing fear that the United States is entering a period when the AIDS epidemic may reach the level of a national catastrophe, historians and other experts say the idea of moderation as a fashionable rule of life is gathering pace.

Looking into the future, some experts are talking about a post-Aids America of churchgoing families, romantic courtship, sentimental love songs and deuring female dress. Even allowing for the American tendency to take trends to an extreme, their arguments appear plausible.

A number of factors, social and political, seem to have conspired to usher in the new mentality. Aids is obviously the main one. But abstinence and self-denial are catching on in other fields of indulgence such as smoking, drinking and even drug use.

Americans also appear to be taking marriage more seriously in the 1980s. The Age of Aquarius, when the children of the postwar baby boom threw off the constraints of their upbringing and invented the sexual revolution, the slogan became, "If it feels good, do it." The slogan has now reversed itself to "If it feels good, don't do it."

One political writer, Michael Barone, says: "We have left behind the argument over how much liberation is desirable and are struggling towards the invention of new traditions of restraint." According to Richard Posenberg, a Cornell University history professor, American society is undergoing a shift in mood that is parallel to, but not necessarily linked with, the political conservatism of the 1980s.

Professor William Ury, a Harvard anthropologist, says that although change is coming, in 1987 America is still more "socially liberal" than it was before the 1960s, despite the conservatism of young professionals or Yuppies. "You could say the Yuppies are fiscally conservative, but morally tolerant," says Ury, himself a model of the clean-cut young American.

Apart from the dread spectre of Aids, the main impulse for the retreat from hedonism seems to be the disillusionment of the maturing Baby Boom generation. "The

gurus and cult leaders are hard up for new recruits these days," *Time* magazine pronounced last year in requiem to the Sixties generation. Baby Boomers across America are now groping for a traditional faith lost in the 1960s and 1970s, it said.

Historians have been busy finding parallels with previous eras of indulgence followed by restraint. Comparisons are being made with libertine societies such as 5th-century BC Greece, the time of the pederasts of Pausanias, and Europe after the Black Death. Just as Puritanism attacked the pleasures of Elizabethan England, so the new sexual doctrine of restraint will cramp the life-styles of fin-de-siècle America.

Statistics point to declining consumption in a number of areas. Demographers from the National Census Bureau said this week that the divorce rate, which peaked nearly half of all American marriages, peaked in the late 1970s and will now recede. Consumption of hard liquor has been sliding 15 per cent annually since the early 1980s as a combined result of growing health-consciousness and fierce drunk-driving laws.

The proportion of the adult population who are smokers fell from 37 per cent in 1975 to 30 per cent last year, and the decline is accelerating. Lighting up in a public place, such as a restaurant, is often treated as an anti-social act in the big cities. A Chicago company broke new ground last month when it forbade employees to smoke at work or at home and announced physical checks to ensure that they obey.

The trend to temperance is also reflected in the choice of food. Red meat consumption has been dropping since 1980.

Even drug abuse, the subject of a near-hysterical campaign last year, appears to be remaining stable, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The biggest wrench to the country's social fabric is coming from the Aids epidemic. At least 15 million Americans are now

believed to be infected and the true figure is widely held to be double that.

Much of New York seems to be talking about a chilling study by the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine that predicts a devastating rise in heterosexual cases as people infected over the past half-decade begin developing the symptoms. "Many single men and women across the country describe a kind of radar that they think they have for safe or clean partners," the magazine said, ridiculing the idea.

Experts have been talking for the past few years of a shift from casual sexual behaviour to a more careful choice of partners. But while the "gay" community reacted to the ravages of the disease, "straight" men and women have only just begun to be frightened enough to take real action, according to some of the experts.

Atlantic Monthly concluded: "It can't hurt to think of the virus as having an intelligence and a commitment to survival that exceeds that of many people."

As the disease takes hold, the moral arguments for restraint are mounting. Polls show that Aids is widely seen as a form of supernatural punishment visited on the promiscuous. Sophisticated thinkers of the right, such as Norman Podhoretz, are now hailing the "return to monogamy" that Aids will enforce. "Aids has, or should have, reminded us that sex after all does count — that, indeed, it is truly a matter of life and death," Podhoretz said in a thunderous recent newspaper column.

One of the country's leading "futurologists", Edward Cornish, has been arguing that Aids will combine with other moral forces to bring a return to old ways of life. He sees fewer women holding full-time jobs because of the new premium that will be placed on marriage and the home. "People will be trying to make the most of their marriages," he says. Trust will play a bigger role between spouses, given the lethal risks of infidelity.

An additional factor will be the shortage of husbands for single

career women over 30. These are now reported to be increasingly frustrated over a shortage of men and flocking to psychiatrists around the country to vent their depression.

Their anxiety was heightened last year by the publication of a study by Harvard and Yale sociologists saying that only 20 per cent of white, college-educated women who reach 30 unmarried can expect even to find a husband. After 35 the figure drops to 5 per cent.

Los Angeles psychologist, Mrs Annette Baran, estimates that up to two-thirds of patients on American psychiatric couches are single women with "relationship problems".

Cornish, who heads the Washington-based World Future Society, an organization that advises business and government, foresees a more staid world where the effort to reduce temptation will lead to modest dress, a big drop in the emphasis on sex in advertising and the media, and a return to the notion of sex as a forbidden fruit. Among other consequences, he says, will be the revival of the funny dirty joke.

"Relations between the sexes will be more formal and less familiar. Romantic love will make a comeback. People will do a lot more punning and fantasizing." He also predicts a resurgence of church-going by the new puritans, as well as a return to older, simpler eating habits.

Professor Ury thinks Aids will create a public panic and sense of invisible menace that could bring ugly consequences. "There will be a lot of distrust and scapegoating." He predicts an impact on society comparable to that of Joseph McCarthy's campaign against communism in the 1950s.

In the meantime, for those who want to persist with old immode- rate ways, an American company is about to market a Safe-Sex Kit. As well as the more obvious items, it includes a pair of latex gloves and a plastic dental dam.

Wilfred Beckerman concludes a debate on free will versus determinism

Well, what a lot of fuss! Just because I said (this page, December 17) that we could pass "moral" judgements on actions but not on people. As if there was anything new about that! One correspondent even reminds me that Saint Augustine reached the same conclusion about hating sin but loving sinners. (Of course, he was writing about 1,500 years ago, so I can be forgiven if it was no longer entirely fresh in my mind!)

Also, I cannot even take comfort from this precedent. It is true that I hate most "sin" and I have deeply loved some "sinners". But I don't like most of them, and some of them fill me with uncontrollable loathing and disgust. However, I believe this to be an irrational reaction and I try to suppress it. I usually fail.

At the risk of provoking another flood of protesting letters (from people who know me) I should explain that this is because, unlike Augustine, I am no saint.

I tried to get across the gist of my argument by putting the question, "If two people had identical genetic endowments and environmental experience, would we expect them to be capable of behaving differently?"

Mr Bernard Levin (January 20) attempted to dispose of my question by saying, in effect, "Yes, two people with the same genetic endowment and environmental experience would behave differently because, in fact, they would not have the same genetic endowment and environmental experience."

Here Mr Levin is simply contradicting himself in the same breath. So the question remains, can one explain differences in people's behaviour in terms of something other than their genes and environment? One way of highlighting the basic point of this question is to put it in the form of asking how two people with the same genes and environment could behave differently (while realizing, of course, that no such pair of people could be found). A simple enough idea, one would have thought.

And unlike Mr Levin I do not find that the Archbishop of York's reply helps much. His Grace says that "one of the conditions for being free has to be the belief that one is". Now I suppose it is true that a necessary condition of his being an archbishop is the belief that he is one. But I'm afraid it is not a sufficient condition. There are many people in lunatic asylums who hold similar beliefs.

Mr Levin presumably thinks that, as a "prize booby", that is where I too, belong. Well, if the

Separating the sin from the sinners

● Bernard Levin began the debate on November 24 when he attacked the view that human beings are solely the result of upbringing and genes as "the greatest and most dangerous lie of our times."

Replying to this on December 17, Professor Beckerman argued that human beings are "just a form of infinitely variable robot" whose behaviour is determined by environment and genetic endowment. Feelings of freedom and moral responsibility for actions, whether good or bad, are illusions.

This exchange provoked a vigorous controversy in our correspondence columns. Several

correspondents, opposing determinism, cited the fact that most people felt strongly that they exercised free choice. The Archbishop of York (January 12) also pointed to the oddity of support for determinism in the field of human behaviour when it was looking "decidedly shaky" in physics.

Mr Levin returned to the fray on January 20, arguing that Professor Beckerman's determinist logic was circular but dangerous. Since most people choose good rather than evil because they believe they are responsible for their actions, the opposite belief was a great danger to society.

asylums were to be populated by all other determinists, the company might be interesting. About half of the professional philosophers in the country are believed to be determinists of one kind or another (not to mention various illustrious predecessors, such as Spinoza who, by contrast with His Grace, defined freedom as "the recognition of necessity").

His Grace may be right in saying that quantum theory and some apparently random physical processes would pose problems for determinism were to be defined to mean that everything that has happened from the beginning of time follows inexorably from those first beginnings. But I fail to see what bearing this has on whether people are morally accountable for their behaviour.

Surely it is not suggested that, since, in certain circumstances, electrons may behave unpredictably, we can pass moral judgements on them? So why do so for human beings? In any case, the existence of random behaviour among sub-atomic particles does not mean that "micro" objects can behave in an entirely unpredictable manner — e.g., that my teapot could start to jump around or that Mr Levin could write an article free of personal abuse.

In fact, the whole emphasis placed by many people on the predictability dilemma seems to

me to be misplaced, since one does not have to believe in total predictability in order to refrain from passing moral judgements on people. Even if their genes and environmental experience are partly the outcome of millions of random events, this does not make them any more morally responsible for them.

Furthermore — although some people on my side in this debate may accuse me of selling a crucial pass — it seems to me that in order to rule out passing moral judgements on people, it is not even necessary to believe that behaviour is totally determined by genes and environment. It is enough to accept that genes and environment do have a significant influence on behaviour. And surely nobody will deny that?

There is already some scientific evidence for the relationship between behavioural abnormality and both genes and environment. Who can doubt that, in, say, a thousand years' time (on the unlikely assumption that the human race has not blown itself to bits by then) science will have greatly increased our knowledge of the genetic and environmental influence on behaviour?

Many of the forms of abhorrent behaviour that currently sicken and enrage us will probably be known to be the result of some genetic abnormality or other

Historians in the year 3000 AD will look back on our attitude to the perpetrators of such behaviour as the barbaric superstition of an uncivilized and ignorant society, much as we look upon the burning of witches in the not too distant past.

The point is that we can pass moral judgements on the different choices that people make only if, when making their choices, they were faced with identical alternatives ("choice sets") in the jargon of economists) and constraints. Otherwise the difference between their choices may be as much, or more, a matter of the differences in the alternatives and constraints as of any other factors (such as the "free will").

But none of this implies, as many believe, that determinism justifies moral neutrality, and provides an excuse for any sort of behaviour. Some actions are bad and should be prevented because they inflict avoidable suffering on people, or animals for that matter. I do not claim any fundamental logical basis for this view. It is not a matter of QED. My genes and environment simply lead me to make this value judgement.

And in asking others to condemn only "bad" actions I am not falling into any "well-known determinist trap". I do not pass moral judgements on those who think differently, but there is nothing inconsistent about my trying to make them change their minds. For I believe that the programmes that we human beings possess include the faculty of logical reasoning, even if it is better developed in some people than in others and less likely to be swept away by passion or instinct.

Far from supporting an abdication of moral responsibility, therefore, I am urging those who share my basic value judgements and who are also amenable to logical argument not merely to condemn what most of us would regard as "bad" actions, but to condemn also actions that impose unnecessary suffering on people for behaviour for which they are not morally responsible.

By all means lock up some of them for as long as is necessary in order to protect society, directly or by force of example. But do not allow moral indignation — however much satisfaction self-righteousness seems to confer on some people — to justify cruelty towards them, or, in another area, lack of compassion for those "guilty" of the social evils of poverty or unemployment.

The author is a fellow of Balliol College, Oxford

Woodrow Wyatt

Hands off this new bonanza

What happened to the great North Sea oil bonanza? Could it have been used to create splendid new manufacturing capacity and cure unemployment? Roughly what happened to our international surplus caused by North Sea oil was that it got itself invested overseas.

By the end of 1986 Britain had net overseas assets of about \$120 billion, being the difference between what foreign countries held in Britain and what we held in them. Only Japan is slightly ahead. West German net overseas assets were a third of ours. The USA was down the drain, because a net debtor on overseas assets by some \$75 billion.

In 1979 our net overseas assets were \$5 billion. The ending of exchange control transformed our position as a worldwide rentier. The British are back to the ways they love most: making easy money out of foreigners. Completely accurate figures are hard to find but it would seem that our net overseas earnings on profits, interest and dividends now run at about £7 billion a year and are rising. We no longer have colonies to exploit or Spanish galleons to plunder to offset some of our not total dedication to the work ethic but we are doing the next best thing.

Labour naturally regards this product of oil money as scandalous. It was horrified at the ending of exchange controls, but if exchange controls had not been ended, the pound, backed by North Sea oil at its height, would have gone through the roof. Our physical exports, particularly of manufacturing products, would not have been in gentle decline but would have almost vanished because the North Sea oil bonanza contained and spent at home would have forced up the pound's value and made our goods hopelessly uncompetitive.

Increases in spending in real terms on such social items as the National Health Service have been sustained when there really would have been savage cuts. As it is, there appears now to be something of a boom in output growth. Samuel Brittan wrote in the *Financial Times* on Thursday that it will turn out to have been 3 per cent in 1986 and he expects 3½ per cent or more this year. Hence the beginning of the gradual but seemingly steady fall in unemployment. Unit costs of manufacturing are now only 3 per cent higher than a year ago, not so greatly different from those in our competitor countries. Not giving companies uncommercial state handouts on easy terms but forcing them to compete for funds in the open international market has sharpened their edge.

Labour's response to all this is to make the conventional charge that the fruits of North Sea oil have been squandered. It believes it too difficult to restore exchange controls in their old vigour and is devising alternative schemes. It

wants huge chunks of our overseas assets to be liquidated and the proceeds returned to Britain. Tax advantages for overseas investors, especially those beneficial to pension funds, would be removed unless they divested overseas.

Roy Hattersley proposes to repatriate £30-35 billion. It is intended that this jolly windfall should go to a national investment bank. This government-run institution would decide what projects were worth backing to increase the national wealth. We have seen last before us the National Enterprise Board was set up at the end of 1974 for much the same purposes. Its record was dismal. Attractive-sounding ventures like the high-technology limous were a disaster. The Nexos office system and similar projects involved a write-off of £34 million.

Government-controlled institutions are incapable of spotting winners better than the market. As John Redwood wrote about the NEB in *Going for Broke* (1984), "The returns were usually negative, and the occasional striking success, never sufficient to outweigh the very large losses made on some of the bigger holdings."

This was also the era of Mr Wedgwood Benn's Kirkby co-operative making radiators at one end of the factory and bottling fruit-juice at the other, the Scottish newspaper and the Norton motorbike co-operative, all of which collapsed. It was the era, too, of the great state-financed De Lorean motorcar. If Labour had been in office since 1979, armed with exchange controls, we would now have no net overseas assets but we would have spent millions upon millions investing in British Steel, British Shipbuilding, British Coal, and other money-gobblers in the illusive chase for jobs and prosperity created by government-directed finances.

True, Leyland is still costing the taxpayer a bomb but at least Jaguar got away to make rocketing profits at home and in the USA. Obviously the free market makes its mistakes but it is encouraging that investments overseas are concentrated on the developed world, where returns may be expected to be high and to improve, and are small in the under-developed world where investments are risky. But, but.

However taxpayers should be delighted that our investments in North America, western Europe, Japan and parts of the East will fructify by natural growth and additional investment as a result of future surpluses, and will give us a higher standard of living than we otherwise would have had, for decades. That is, unless Labour gets in and blows what is, springing the late Lord Stockton calls, the "family silver", showing its complete misunderstanding of world economics. Hoarded family silver never produced anything, unlike wise overseas investments.

Michael Kinsley

Well, one thing's certain — or is it?

1986. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Specifically, it was the best and worst of times for the US League of Savings Institutions (according to *American Banker*), for the Oakland Raiders (said the *Los Angeles Times*), for the pop group Run-DMC (asserted *The Washington Post*), and for traffic around New York (noted that city's *Times*).

This information comes courtesy of Nexus, a computerized database that allows one to search for words and phrases in all major newspapers and magazines distributed in America, including some British ones such as *The Economist* and *Financial Times*.

According to Nexus, it was the best of times and the worst of times no fewer than 47 times in major American newspapers and magazines during 1986. I'm afraid I must report that British publications are disproportionately represented in the following Nexus findings.

There were "no easy answers" on 104 issues in 1986, up only slightly from an even 100 in 1985. The last half-dozen of the year were teenage pregnancy (twice), how to restrain unemployed workers. "The right time to sell a stock," how to save General Motors, and "Why Thoreau moved into his hut."

Meanwhile, "vital questions" were piling up — 77 in 1986, a 28 per cent increase on 1985. These ranged from "Where to strike a balance between prosperity and preserving the environment" to "Does real Texas chili have beans? Thousands of matters 'remain to be seen' — 75 new ones in December alone, including the future of Opel, whether an opera singer named Farth Esham can cure her "lack of dynamic variety", and the appeal of a new issue of debentures in Yugoslavia.

In such an uncertain world, it is reassuring to know that "one thing is certain" — This we were told 234 times in 1986. Alas, this "one thing" keeps changing. Is it that "the demand for lumber is higher in July than it is in March"? Is it that "Ohio courts will be writing some interesting new chapters in corporate law"? Or that "home shopping has already achieved the status of a cultural phenomenon"? Those are some December highlights, together with an old favour-

ite: "Whatever Congress finally decides, one thing is certain — someone will not be happy."

"The buck" was a veritable milk-train in 1986: it stopped 90 times. Buck-stops increased towards the end of the year, with the Iran scandal — 15 stops in December alone. Isn't it great to live in a country where the buck stops in so many places? Maybe not. In Japan, according to *Foreign Affairs*, "there is no place where the buck stops."

But in America, we've sure got the "right stuff". In fact, we got it 258 times last year. Among those who either did or did not have the right stuff in just the last few weeks of 1986 were the "tyrager pilots" (fair enough), any number of professional athletes, America's middle-level managers, America's chiefs and America's stockbrokers.

With all this buck-stopping and right-stuffing, it might seem hard to concentrate. Nevertheless, it took far less than the prospect of a hanging to "concentrate the mind" in 1986. American minds were concentrated 62 times; to be exact, most often on the prospect of a corporate takeover. A no-pay-off policy was said to concentrate the minds of management, unemployment to concentrate the minds of workers.

Finally, though, the master weighing in on everyone's mind is: How will we know when it's over? This vital question was raised 85 times in 1986. In the majority of cases, thoughtful observers concluded that it's "not over until it's over". On 11 occasions (15 per cent), they offered the view that it's "not over until the fat lady sings". The rest were mostly variations on "not over until the final second" until "I blow my whistle" (megaphone reference), until "the sixth inning" (manager of the champion Little League team).

It was a year of subtle distinctions. Unlike baseball, which gave birth to "It's not over until it's over", football is often "over long before it's over", according to *The New York Times*. The last word goes to the *Los Angeles Times*: "Whereas in basketball it's not over until the fat lady sings, in horse-racing it's not over until the videotapes are reviewed."

One thing is certain. But I just can't think what it is.



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EUROPE DES PAYSANS

In his under-reported speech to Chatham House last month, President François Mitterrand offered a *tour d'horizon* of the major issues facing the European Community. On many of those issues — in particular, defence — he revealed a willingness to consider fresh approaches. Upon the central problem of the Common Agricultural Policy, however, he offered thin gruel.

Admittedly, he attacked the CAP for piling up vast food surpluses when markets are contracting. That is a criticism, however, which is received with nods of approval from all sides in the agricultural debate provided it remains an abstract criticism with no practical consequences. And his only practical proposal was "a working conference" which would hold a major debate on agricultural policy.

Would such a conference procure genuine reform or defer it? In view of the evanescent mirage-like character of past agreements to rein back the CAP, it seems reasonable to fear the latter. And the fine print of Mitterrand's speech confirms that fear.

As outlined, his "working conference" would rethink agricultural policy "over the next ten to twenty years" by which time a lot of wine would have flowed under the bridge. Moreover, it would be a large-scale consultation encompassing not just states, but also "the farming organisations", which can be guaranteed to resist a reform that might reduce the size of their membership.

But the most significant argument advanced by the President was his statement that a "purely industrial" form of agriculture — with large agri-food factories but no "peasants and farmers" — would be a

great mistake. Wrapping the Treaty of Rome around himself, he declared that the Community's founders had wanted "a certain kind of rural civilisation" for Europe and that had to be taken into account as well as profitability.

President Mitterrand's enthusiasm for peasants is understandable since they constitute a noisy and self-conscious 20 per cent of the French electorate. In French policy-making, their interests now outweigh the financial fact that France has recently become a modest net contributor to the CAP.

What is more surprising — and alarming — is that such enthusiasm should be shared by the EEC Commission. This week in London, however, the deputy director-general for agriculture, Mr Peter Pooley, argued that reform of the CAP should be designed so as to do as little damage as possible to the small producers who are the great majority of Community farmers. The cost of reform would be borne mainly by large farming enterprises.

There is one advantage to such a policy. By favouring the small-scale, inefficient, high-cost producer, it ensures that a given level of subsidy elicits less food to be stored in intervention warehouses. The more inefficient the farmers, the smaller the food mountains. If the aim of policy is to give money to peasants without getting food in exchange, this will do the trick wonderfully. But if preserving "a certain kind of rural civilisation" is the purpose behind it, it might be cheaper to hire actors who would don smocks, wear straw hats and wave at the passing tourists from their Potemkin villages.

The objections from general principle to such a policy hardly need stating. It con-

stitutes an incentive to farmers to move from efficient to inefficient production; it promises a permanent, open-ended subsidy from Europe's taxpayers to its farmers who are a minority everywhere; and it openly admits that the CAP is a welfare policy.

Britain has particular cause to oppose such reforms. Having modernised its agriculture, this country finds itself with a very small number of farmers who are disproportionately employed in large farming enterprises. We are already large net contributors to the CAP, reforms which re-directed subsidies from large to small farms would worsen that position. The sort of reforms which would benefit this country, not to mention all European taxpayers, would be a gradual reduction in price supports to reduce surplus production, accompanied by tapering subsidies to persuade Mitterrand's high-cost, small-scale "peasants and farmers" to leave the land — exactly the opposite policy to that proposed by the President.

The British government, while seeking allies within the Community for its own approach, plainly realises that the French policy has strong attractions for countries with large agricultural populations. That is why agricultural reforms of the right kind always recede into the indefinite future. If only as a tactic, therefore, the Government should begin to think about the unthinkable which, in this matter, means "nationalising" the CAP. Each country would then accept the financial responsibility for supporting its own farmers. If we for the peasants themselves to take pity on the British taxpayer, we will be waiting till the cows come home.

BONN CONFRONTS TERRORISM

Three weeks ago, the tentacles of Lebanese terrorism extended for the first time to West Germany, when two businessmen from the Federal Republic were taken hostage in Beirut. Bonn was thus added to the list of Western capitals which now confront the unenviable dilemma: to deal or not to deal with foreign terrorists for the sake of an innocent life.

For Chancellor Kohl the dilemma is especially acute. It is partly the novelty of the experience: not since the Munich Olympics of 1972 has Bonn had to deal directly with an outcrop of Middle East terrorism. Chancellor Kohl has not before been required to formulate a policy on terrorism. The pressures on him are correspondingly greater.

He faces West German public opinion torn between the plight of captive fellow-countrymen and the risks of giving in to terrorists. He faces the heart-rending pleas of the hostages' friends and relatives. He also faces pressure from abroad — from Britain and the United States, in particular — not to allow any chink to appear in the West's anti-terrorist armour.

Hitherto, Bonn's support of a common European stand against terrorism needed to be little more than academic. Now, it has a cost, and with his political standing weakened

after last month's elections, Chancellor Kohl may find it that much more difficult to place international solidarity above domestic popularity.

So far, the Bonn government has emerged from its first brush with the hostage-takers of Beirut with some credit. It has succeeded, almost, in maintaining a news blackout and so prevented an American-style campaign to free the hostages at almost any cost.

Above all, however, Bonn deserves credit for having had the courage to arrest the suspected terrorist, Muhammad Hamadi, in the first place — the event which appears to have triggered the kidnapping of the two West Germans in Beirut.

Detaining individuals suspected of involvement in Middle East terrorism is a high-risk pursuit. It is an action from which several European governments have shrunk. For as long as the suspected terrorist is in captivity on Western soil, he represents a double threat: a threat to public order in the country that holds him, and a threat to the citizens of that country when they visit Lebanon.

But Chancellor Kohl's dilemma is more complex still. His freedom of action is restricted by the special interest in the case of the United

States. Hamadi is wanted there on suspicion of masterminding the TWA hijacking in 1985. To extradite Hamadi, as the Americans are requesting, could lay Bonn open to violent reprisals. It could also expose Chancellor Kohl to accusations at home of capitulating to American pressure. But it could, also, in the longer term save West Germany from the perils which attend the presence of a jailed Arab terrorist.

For the moment, the West German government is attempting to steer a middle course between what some will perceive as capitulation to American pressure and real capitulation to terrorism. If the middle course succeeds, Hamadi could be tried in West Germany on terrorism charges unrelated to the TWA hijacking.

Such a trial would be a courageous move, satisfying the requirements of West German dignity and reiterating Western Europe's refusal to treat with terrorists. It should not, however, be regarded as the last word on the subject. If Hamadi were to be acquitted or convicted only of minor offences, his extradition to face more serious charges in the United States would be the best — indeed the only — chance of ensuring that West Germany's first hostages in Beirut were also its last.

FOURTH LEADER

The Albanian General Election has come and gone, and those who, from far away, thought that the results might confound the pollsters, are themselves confounded. All 250 constituencies of the People's Assembly were won by the Communist Party, as has been the case in every General Election since the modern state of Albania was set up after the Second World War. Such a consistent record of confidence in their elected representatives among the voters is very rare, but so far from the electors feeling that it was time for a change, it could be said that the Opposition hardly stood a chance.

The Department of Psephology at Tirana University is doubtless hard at work, calculating differential swing (is there a North-South divide?), breaking down votes by age-groups (whither youth?), trying to ascertain which issues were conclusive in the voters' minds, estimating the effect of the Party Political Broadcasts. As befits cautious scholars (and those who deal with

political matters in Albania seem to feel a need to be particularly cautious), they will not be in a position to publish their findings for some time; we who deal in the news day by day must be quicker off the mark in interpreting the figures. And as it happens, there lies immediately to hand information which provides us with the means of analysis. The Albanian Central Election Commission has just announced that of the 1,830,653 registered electors, 1,830,652 voted for the Communist candidates.

At first, owing no doubt to the understandable excitement attendant upon any election as the results come in, the Commission declared that 100 per cent of the electors had given their vote for the "ins"; our own calculations show that the figure was only 99.999945 per cent. (Near enough, you may say, but accuracy is a demanding master, and there must be some red faces today in the Central Election Commission!)

It may be helpful if we give

the results in tabular form for those wishing to follow the details of this complicated business. The popular vote, therefore, breaks down like this:

Communist Party: 1,830,652

Others (total): 1

It seems that the authorities have made a great effort to find the voter who cast the lone dissentient vote: no doubt they want to ascertain his motives for doing so in order to make Tirana University's studies complete. So far, however, he has remained anonymous. For our part, we wish him well — not, of course, because we want to meddle in Albanian politics, but because we would like to assure him that great oaks from little acorns grow, that perseverance pays, that money a mickle makes a muckle, and that he now needs a swing of only 49.999945 per cent to carry him to victory. Always supposing, that is, that the authorities don't find him first, and keep him so busy helping them with their enquiries that he has to give up politics altogether.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Controversial sentences for rape

From Dr Neville Davis

Sir, The record of the judiciary in relation to cases of rape continues to arouse public anger and concern. The case of the guardsman convicted of a brutal rape, who was told by a judge that he would be treated leniently so as not to damage his military career raised hackles a few years ago. So did the judge who told a hitch-hiking victim that she was "guilty of contributory negligence". Now we have outrage at the leniency of the sentences in the Ealing case.

Your leader, "The price of rape" (February 4) raises a most pertinent point, reminding readers that sentences are widely different from the time these criminals are likely to serve. Yet would it not be naive to think that Mr Justice Leonard was unaware of this when he formulated his sentences? Looked at in this light, the sentences given to the rapists bear even less relationship to the severity of a crime which is increasing both in frequency and in violence.

The various women's organisations justifiably gained public sympathy and support in their attempts to secure better treatment for rape victims. The response has been considerable, with the Home Office taking an early lead by issuing a memorandum to police forces drawing attention to the deficiencies of the system and recommending improvements.

Certainly, the work of Commander Wagstaff, of the Metropolitan Police, together with her working party on sexual crime is already showing markedly beneficial effects on the handling of rape cases in the metropolis. Yet one must question whether or not the good that is being done in this way is being undermined by the implications of lenient sentencing.

What is the point of police spending their time and energy (not to mention depleting already inadequate financial resources) if the end result is what many people would call derisory sentences? Similarly, why should victims respond to calls to come forward and report these crimes, to submit themselves to investigative and court procedures if sentences put such little value on their pain and suffering?

We have not yet had any cases of Aids infection transmitted through rape, but no doubt they

will come. For how long will the judges continue to insult victims in this way?

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE DAVIS,
Browlow Medical Centre,
140-142 Brownlow Road, N11.

From Miss Harriet R. Owen
Sir, In reading *The Times* report today (February 3) of the trial of the men convicted in the Ealing vicarage raid that "ended in savagery and rape", I noted with great alarm the judge's particular comment, "It does not matter if it was a vicarage or any other dwelling, the effect of that kind of conduct is truly terrifying".

It matters greatly that this horrendous crime was committed at a vicarage. A vicarage is an extension of a church, in so far that people going to its door at any time of the day or night will receive without question any help they may need, spiritual or material. My sister is married to a man who is a curate who helps many people with whatever problems they may have, and in doing so admits them to their home frequently.

Now, I fear, the clergy and their wives, who give pastoral support, will answer their doors with some trepidation.

The sentences passed at the Central Criminal Court are, in my opinion, no real deterrent for people who might think of imitating this crime and have placed the clergy and their families at greater risk in the future.

Surely we are entitled to look to the courts to protect all in the community even if this means passing harsher sentences which would then, in Mr Justice Leonard's own words, "adequately reflect the horror the public undoubtedly feels".

Yours faithfully,
HARRIET RUTH OWEN,
6 Western Terrace,
Falmouth, Cornwall.
February 3.

From the Reverend K. W. Pratt
Sir, After the Ealing vicarage rape case the expression "contempt of court" would appear to have been given a new meaning.

Yours faithfully,
K. W. PRATT,
7 Stuart Crescent,
Gartree,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire.

A school in Brent

From the Head of Aylestone Community School

Sir, I feel I must write in protest at the article written by your Education Correspondent, John Clare, entitled "Children out of control in Brent" (January 28).

Your readers should be informed that the report of her Majesty's Inspector was based on their findings of a four-day visit to the school during the height of the national teachers' industrial action. At that time all maintained schools were affected catastrophically.

Brent, as a local education authority, is generous in its pupil/teacher ratio and also provides a goodly number of supply teachers, but no authority, however beneficent, can provide up to a dozen extra teachers at the drop of a hat and this was the need at Aylestone during the time of the inspection, when the February influenza bug was rampant.

Some pupils arriving at school, having battled against the elements, were not encouraged when told they had to return home for part of the day and some, though

encouraged to be supportive, did sneak back and were seen about the corridors of our large eight-block campus.

One further major criticism I must voice, and that is that the team of inspectors did not include among its number any specialists in community education. Aylestone is not simply a comprehensive school, as John Clare writes, it is a community school. At the time of the inspection there were 150-plus adult students registered and in attendance, though only passing reference was made by the HMIs to this exciting development and no mention made by your education correspondent.

I have asked the LEA to request a full-scale inspection of Aylestone by a team including a community education specialist as soon as possible. When this is effected the fuller investigation should reveal we do have keen, motivated pupils, we do have a gifted, committed staff, and we are resourced and supported well by a progressive LEA.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN FARMINER, Head,
Aylestone Community School,
Aylestone Avenue, NW6.

Special Branch raid

From Mr R. Sykes

Sir, The strange letter from the telepersons (February 4) endorsing the protest by the Chairman of the BBC Governors about the recent activities of the Special Branch can only mean that if the seized material deals with matters "of public interest" then national security can and should be endangered. I find that to be a frightening doctrine.

Since the signatories to the letter include senior officers of the IBA and Michael Hastings, the head of the theatre's literary department, have clarified the reasons for the withdrawal of the play. Stafford-Clark has admitted that the play grossly over-simplified the history in question and was not scrupulous in its treatment of the facts. He has also denied that any kind of pressure was brought to bear on the theatre.

Yours etc,
R. SYKES,
21 Bywater Street, SW1.
February 4.

Architects' congress

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects

Sir, Contrary to what Charles Knevet's report (February 2, later edition) says, there is no prospect whatsoever that the UIA (Union of International Architects) congress, which the RIBA is hosting in Brighton in July, could cost members of the institute up to £1 million as a result of possible loss. At the present time over 1,500 firm enquiries have been received and I have every confidence that the congress will be a triumph.

Council discussed the RIBA's nomination for the UIA presidency at its meeting on January 21 and reaffirmed their support for Owen Luder. In declining to endorse Rod Hackney's bid to become the UK candidate, council were mindful of the task facing him as President of the RIBA, a role in which they give him their full support. There is certainly no attempt or reason to use this issue "as a smokescreen to mask the small number of congress tickets sold".

Yours faithfully,
LARRY ROLLAND, President,
Royal Institute of British Architects,
66 Portland Place, W1.

Muddying Boat Race waters

From Mr S. M. Wilson

Sir, In view of the amount of space in your columns recently devoted to the going-on at Oxford University Boat Club, the following facts may be of interest.

The Head of the River Race (HRR), the famous professional race inaugurated by Steve Fairbairn in 1926, takes place annually in March. For safety reasons this has to be limited to 420 eights, although many more apply. Entries range from the small club crew to the national squad and include crews from several European countries.

Because the Head is rowed from Mortlake to Putney on the ebb tide and takes about an hour and a half the choice of dates is very limited. In 1987 the only feasible date and time was March 28 at 3.45 pm.

The Oxford and Cambridge university boat clubs have sponsorship worth £110,000 per annum for three years. The Head of the River Race has no cash sponsorship.

There were two other dates with suitable tides for the University Boat Race. However, rather than forgo a further £30,000 from the BBC, and despite all objections from the HRR, the Boat Race organisers chose March 28 at 12.15 pm for their event, so causing the maximum disruption to the very complex organisation of the Head.

Thus 18 crewmen, already receiving £110,000, are going to cause a great deal of inconvenience to 3,780 others for the sake of a further £30,000; not a bad rate of payment for amateur sportsmen.

It is clear that the current Boat Race philosophy is to pursue their own interests at the expense of others, and the attitude and behaviour of the American group at Oxford would appear to be entirely in line with this.

In the circumstances, I hardly feel that one need waste much sympathy on Oxford.

Yours faithfully,
STUART M. WILSON,
(Chairman, Regatta Committee,
Thames Regional Rowing Council,
2A St Mark's Road,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.
February 3.

On thin ice?

From Mr Geoffrey Yates

Sir, John Curry, as reported by your skating correspondent (January 24), directs heavy criticism at the judges. In a very long career as an international judge of four Olympic, as well as countless world and European championships since first acting as the British judge of the world event in London in 1950, I have never once been "propositioned" by another country's judge with the intention of agreeing to "fix" the marks, nor have I ever heard directly of this happening between other countries, or groups of countries.

I should mention that, as a pre-war Olympic figure-skater myself, I have, throughout the years, avoided becoming involved with the more recently emerging ice-dance side and cannot vouch for the "Torvill and Dean" skating scene.

The system used is one of majority placings by the panel acting as a whole, and it has been shown over many years to be the fairest: indeed, in 38 years' experience of judging at the highest level I can count on one hand the number of times when the "wrong" skater has won.

International figure-skating is, particularly in the light of present-day standards, dauntingly demanding of the judges, whose suitability as assessors, powers of concentration and technical knowledge would, in a comparable field elsewhere within the sporting environment, attract high financial reward.

Yours etc,
GEOFFREY YATES,
Mariners,
Oakenbrow,
Sway,
Lymington,
Hampshire.
February 28.

Elections in S Africa

From Viscount Sidmouth

Sir, The report this morning (January 31) of Dr Worrall's return to South Africa is good news for all those who still hope for a negotiated solution to the political problems of that country.

Apart from the good standing he enjoys from his term as ambassador here, he will find that there is a rising tide of moderate opinion in his own country.

This is by no means confined to English-speaking whites, and certainly does not exclude blacks. The resignation of Mr Wynand Malan, with his impeccable Afrikaans background, and the views of Chief Buthelezi are proof of this.

A few years ago white opinion, even among strong opponents of apartheid, drew a line at universal suffrage. Having just returned from a long visit to South Africa, I believe this concept is now widely accepted, though with variations as to how and when.

It is quite possible that relatively small liberal gains in the forthcoming general election will have a disproportionately powerful effect on the ruling party.

Yours faithfully,
SIDMOUTH,
House of Lords,
January 30.



ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 7 1958

Manchester United's manager, Matt Busby, was later to describe the team in the Munich air crash as "surely the greatest group of young footballers in one team ever gathered together". He survived his multiple injuries and built a new team, which became champions again in 1968. Busby was knighted in 1985 and has been president of the club since 1980.

MANCHESTER UNITED IN AIR CRASH

SEVEN PLAYERS AMONG 21 DEAD

AIRLINER HITS BUILDING DURING SNOWSTORM

From Our Special Correspondent

Twenty-one people, including the captain and six other players of the Manchester United football team and eight British sports journalists, were killed yesterday when a B.E.A. Elizabethan airliner bringing the team home from Belgrade crashed just after taking off from Riem Airport, Munich, in a heavy snowstorm. The airliner caught fire after hitting buildings on the edge of the airport.

The following is a list of the dead:

Players and Officials:
R.W. Byrnes (captain); M. Jones (centre-half); W. Whelan (inside right); E. Colman (right half); T. Taylor (centre forward); G. Bent (left-back); D. Pegg (outside left); W. Crickmer (team secretary); W. Sattinoff (director); H. Whalley (coach); and P.H. Currie (trainer).
Journalists:

F. Swift (*News of the World*); T. Jackson (*Manchester Evening News*); A. Sedbrook (*Daily Mirror*); H.D. Davies (*Manchester Guardian*); E. Thompson (*Daily Mail*); H. Rose (*Daily Express*); G. Follows (*Daily Herald*); and A. Clarke (*Manchester Evening Chronicle*).

Others:
W.T. Cable (steward); and B.P. Miklos (travel agent).

MANAGER'S CONDITION

A doctor at the hospital in Munich told Reuters by telephone early today that Mr. Busby was being given blood transfusions, and, although his life was in danger, it was thought he would survive the night. "Everything is being done to save his life," the doctor said, but pointed out that Mr. Busby's condition was "the most serious of all patients." He was conscious but could not speak.

The doctor said two other injured passengers were in great danger, but he could not give their names.

The Elizabethan, chartered from B.E.A., had on board 38 passengers, two of them women and one child, together with a crew of six. It had picked up at Belgrade, after their European Cup match with Red Star, and had stopped to refuel at Munich.

Mr A. H. Milward, Chief Executive of B.E.A., said in Munich last night: "The aircraft came from Belgrade to Munich. It refuelled here and went out to the end of the runway and made two attempts at take-off, but the captain was not satisfied with one of his engines. He returned to the runway and had a consultation with the station engineer."

"On the runway it was decided that the engines were entirely satisfactory. The aircraft then went out to the end of the runway again to take off. We are not certain that the aircraft became airborne but we do know that it overshot the runway and hit a house 300 yards from the end of the runway with its port wing. It then veered to the right, hit a hut, and burst into flames."

SURVIVOR'S STORY

Mr. Peter Howard, a *Daily Mail* photographer, who was stated to be the only one of the Press party to be well enough to describe the events, telephoned his newspaper last night after helping with rescue operations.

He said: "It was snowing when we landed at Munich. I was sitting in the front row of seats on the starboard side. When the plane tried to take off there seemed to be some kind of slight fault with the engines. He stopped."

"Then he tried a second take-off. That did not seem satisfactory so he taxied back to the apron to get things checked up. It was on the third take-off that we crashed. I think we were about the end of the runway, only a bit above the ground."

"The plane suddenly appeared to be breaking up. Seats started to crumble up. Everything seemed to be falling to pieces."

"It was a rolling sensation and all sorts of stuff started coming down on top of us. There was not time to think. No one cried out. No one spoke; just a deadly silence for what could only have been seconds. I cannot remember whether there was a bang or not. Everything was stopped all at once. I was so dazed I just scrambled about. Then I found a hole in the wreckage and crawled out on hands and knees..."

Mature judgement

From Mr Neville Barwick

Sir, In December I took the Associated Board's piano exam at grade 6. The fact that I passed with merit was helped by shouts of "Good luck, Grandpa" before I left the car to enter the examination room.

I am debating tackling grade 7 next year before I reach 73.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE BARWICK,
6 George Street,
Bathwick Hill,
Bath, Avon.



not proceeded with beyond the prototype stage.

He loved the Miles planes and regarded the Gemini, in particular, as having the best handling characteristics of any aircraft among the 120 types he flew.

His experience of gas dynamics and aircraft design made him a vital member of the team working on the rocket-powered M52 supersonic research aircraft. Had it been built it would have given this country the lead in supersonic manned flight. Subsequent tests with powered

Brown loved planes and ethos of the airfield. He regularly flew with tight test schedules and acclimatized himself successive generations of craft. His own experience extended from the biplane the 1930s to the Hawker Hunter and he kept up his licence until 1970.

He was not only a good engineer but an inspiring leader of a technical team. He baffled those who worked under him with sensitivity and humour.

He was a confirmed bachelor.

MR GEORGE WYLIE

Mr George Wylie, GC, who played a vital role in defusing a large bomb which might have wrecked St Paul's Cathedral in 1940, died on February 1. He was 78.

He was born on December 25, 1908, and lived in the East End of London for most of his life.

During the blitz he served in a Royal Engineers bomb disposal team. After a heavy raid on the night of September 12, 1940, he noticed that an unexploded 2,000kg bomb was embedded in the soil below Dean's yard.

The bomb's weight, which was forcing it down through the soft earth, made disintering it an arduous task. But this was rendered the more dangerous by the proximity of fractured and burning gas mains.

For three days, in the continual fear that it would explode, Wylie and his team worked to prise the bomb out of the soil. When they succeeded and it was taken to Hackney Marshes to be destroyed in a controlled detonation, the 100ft crater it resulted in testified to the danger St Paul's would have suffered, had it gone off before their work was completed.

For his courage and skill in this operation Wylie was awarded the George Cross.

As time went by, however, he, like many of his contemporaries, became disillusioned with what he saw as the worsening moral climate in Britain, and came to fight for some reason "that" those no longer represented the civilised standards he had valued in wartime society.

In 1984, therefore, he gave his GC, which was acquired for £12,000 by a merchant bank, which then presented it to St Paul's Cathedral, where it remains on display.

Wylie was a man who exemplified stolid virtues. Row, where he continued to live, he was a familiar sight at the shops, and in the evening at his local pub.

He was widowed some years ago. His son survives him.

University news

Oxford

Prizes

Prizes given in medical history 1989: A Larsson, Christ Church; 1990: J. B. Macdonald, Merton; 1991: 1990: not awarded.

Hobson memorial clinical medical research scholarships 1986:

F. E. Barnard, Reader and Green College; 1987: J. B. Macdonald, Merton; 1988: J. B. Macdonald, Merton; 1989: J. B. Macdonald, Merton; 1990: J. B. Macdonald, Merton; 1991: J. B. Macdonald, Merton.

Cambridge

Professor Sir Harry Hinsley was elected into an honorary fellowship of Darwin College.

Strathclyde

Dr Gordon Fuxell, former reader in marketing at Cranfield Institute of Technology, and Mr Michael Thomas, formerly deputy chairman of Lear Corporation, have been appointed to professorships in Strathclyde's department of marketing.

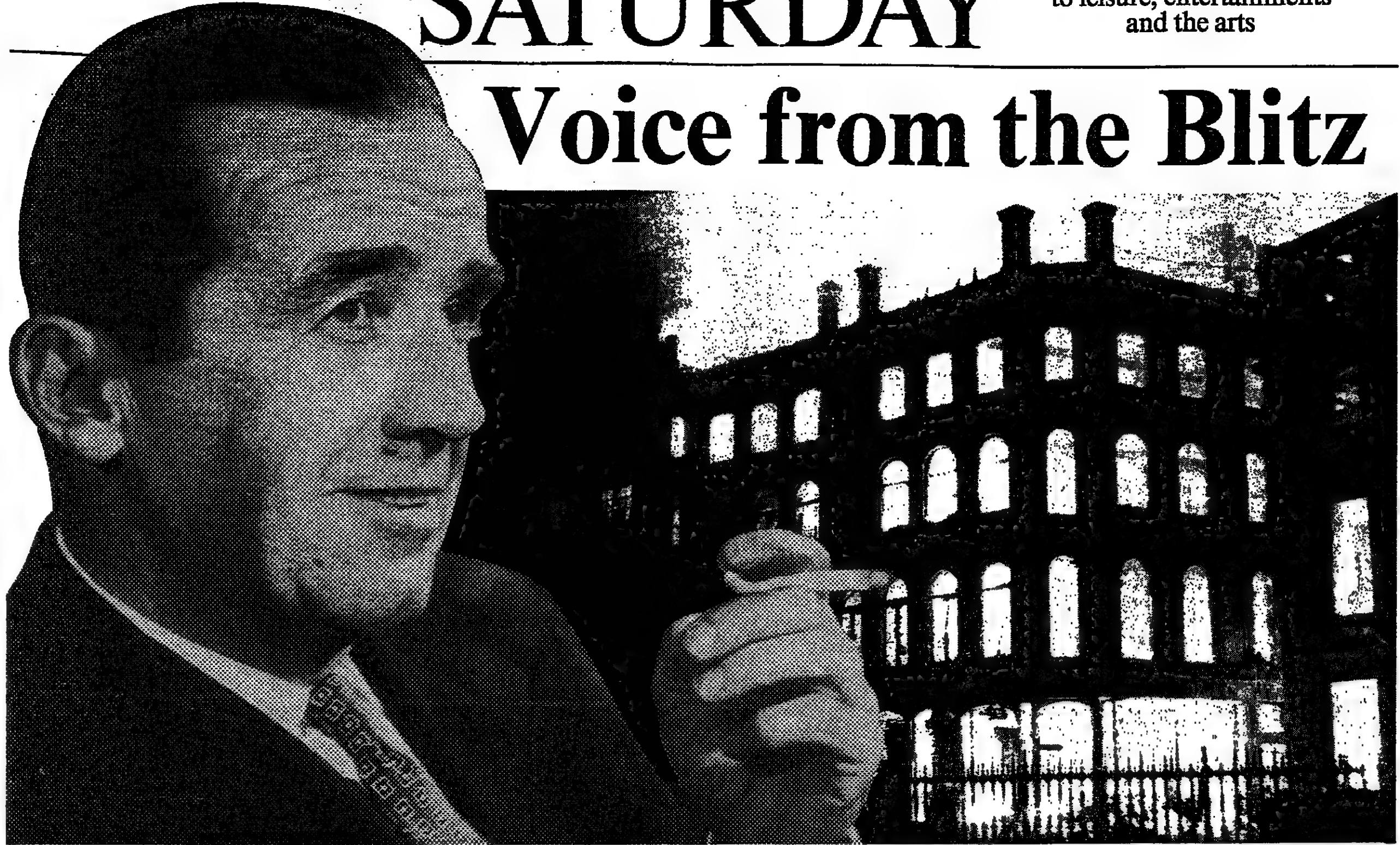
سكنا على الابل

February 7-13, 1987

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainments and the arts

SATURDAY

Voice from the Blitz



Ed Murrow reporting: the factory fires were a beacon to further waves of bombers. BBC liaison officers realized his value - "Broad casting can play an enormously important part in the war", they said. "This is a sure way of enlisting American support"

On the morning of September 7, 1940, engineers of the Columbia Broadcasting System's master control in New York, preparing for the usual morning news round-up, failed, for no apparent reason, to get in touch with Berlin. Some time later, news flashes began coming off the wires: London under air attack, great fleets of bombers with fighter escorts, hundreds and hundreds of them, pounding the city.

Twenty-four hours later the American broadcaster Edward R. Murrow faced the microphone in London red-eyed and light-headed from lack of sleep. He had spent the night variously in a ditch, under a haystack, and sprawled exhausted in a waterfront inn. He had watched London burning. Acres of the city had been reduced to ruin. The docks districts were a mass of smouldering wreckage. Hundreds were dead, thousands wounded or trapped in

the rubble, more thousands homeless.

"Yesterday afternoon," he began, "it seems days ago now, I drove down to the East End of London... it was a quiet and almost pleasant trip..."

Murrow had found a story worthy of his telling.

Sent to England in 1937 as European bureau chief for CBS, one of the three leading US networks, he was, at 32, already a rising star of the radio scene, and he would go on to become a legendary broadcaster. How much his wartime reports helped to shape American opinion in favour of Britain's cause can never be known but as the BBC's Godfrey Talbot put it, "he had an inordinate admiration for what Britain was like in those days."

Not that it was easy for even the friendliest of correspondents to make their reports. The start of the war brought the imposition of military censorship: no more ad-libbed on-the-spot reports, for a start.

The censors wanted prepared scripts only, read off in the studio, and checked beforehand by the liaison people of the BBC. Travel itself was restricted. As a bureau chief for a relatively new medium, Ed Murrow found every step a battle against the tradition-bound military bureaucracy.

The three networks broadcast news every night to some 50 million Americans. Broadcasting counted in this war; American opinion counted. Yet the broadcasters had to plead constantly with the service ministries - the RAF the most open, the venerable Navy, controlling censorship, the most rigid.

The Germans, by contrast, conscious of the power of the medium, were flying neutral radio correspondents to the front with a great show of providing technical facilities.

In the summer of 1940, as France fell and Italy entered the war, Murrow and his colleagues suddenly found themselves classified as aliens in a pre-invasion atmosphere.

The American Liaison Unit of the BBC played a strong card in a confidential memorandum from the unit's head: "Broadcasting can play an enormously important part in the war... I am convinced that this... is a sure way of enlisting American sympathy and support."

In the end, though, it was not the persistence of Murrow and his colleagues that forced the issue, but the post-Dunkirk atmosphere itself, imparting an overriding sense of urgency. By the time the Battle of Britain was at its height, the reporters had acquired police passes from Scotland Yard. Still, it was not until late summer that procedures were simplified and everything expedited, even down to the provision, at short notice, of precious cans of petrol.

So it came about that Murrow was able to take his historic drive through the East End, accompanied by two

other correspondents, he edged his convertible through the teeming streets, past docks crowded with householders, buying meat and cabbage for the weekend, or perhaps lured outside by the exceptional warm Saturday weather. At a farm near the Thames the three filled their tin hats with apples, paying the farmer two shillings apiece, and stretched out at the edge of a turnip field. Rooms had been reserved for them at a riverside inn. Up-river, smoke was rising from two oil-tank fires caused by German raiders the night before.

At 8.10pm the sirens sounded again. The raiders were back, flying in pairs, following the river and the trail of oil fires set that afternoon - a blazing corridor of light leading directly to London. Out in the flatlands, Murrow and his companions looked on, weeping, frightened, sick to their stomachs as the flames of the burning boroughs filled the sky. A huge cloud billowed above the city, spreading a pall of black as far as the North Sea.

The London they had known seemed to be going up in smoke. "The fires up the river had turned the moon blood-red," Murrow told America in his broadcast the following day. "Huge pear-shaped bursts of flame would rise up into the smoke and disappear. The world was upside down."

At 3am they were still watching, dazed by the pound-

ing and the flashing lights and the drone of the planes flying above the inky smoke. "The searchlights bored into that black roof, but couldn't penetrate it. They looked like long pillars supporting a black canopy. Suddenly all the lights dashed off, and a blackness fell right to the ground. It grew cold. We covered ourselves with hay. The shrapnel clicked as it hit the concrete road nearby. And still the German bombers came."

Murrow told, too, of his own slow, tortuous return through rubble-strewn streets, now unrecognizable, the fires still smouldering; red buses lined up to take away the homeless and the hopeless - "men with white scarves around their necks instead of collars... dull-eyed, empty-faced women... most of them carried little cheap cardboard suitcases and sometimes bulging paper shopping bags. That was all they had left."

few on Buckingham Palace, imposing a sense of community where none had been before.

"The politicians who call this a 'people's war' were right," Murrow observed after four nights, "probably more right than they knew at the time. I've seen some horrible sights in this city... but not once have I heard man, woman or child shout that Britain should throw in her hand."

Ed Murrow's graphic radio reports from bomb-battered London helped to draw America into the war. But first he had to fight his own battle against the British censors, as A.M. Sperber, in an extract from her new biography, explains



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The afternoon stillness was suddenly shattered by the wail of a siren. They looked up to see a small group of enemy bombers above their heads, flying inland. From a nearby airfield, British fighters rose to meet them. Anti-aircraft guns swung into action. The air battle moved westward, out of sight, and briefly there was quiet.

Then came the main onslaught. From the east, huge waves of bombers in V formation - they counted 20 to 25 in each - roared in and swept up-river toward London. RAF fighters rising again to meet them, trying vainly to turn them back.

The three reporters ran for cover to a haystack. Above them shrapnel exploded in mid-air, releasing a deadly hail of fragments. Minutes later they heard the first explosions as the bombers


Dapper freedom fighter

Perhaps the only American radio correspondent still remembered from the wartime years is Ed Murrow. His career spanned both radio and television. When he took to broadcasting, radio was in its heyday. When television exploded after the war he was already a national figure, but he moved over smoothly, learning his new trade as he went along.

"I had never seen such a handsome man in my life," one woman said. "I just stood and looked at him."

With his dark good looks and fastidious dressing he was more of a natural for TV than for radio. Specializing in news and documentaries, he was anchor man of the long-running series *See It Now*.

No mere front man, Murrow excelled as a campaigning broadcaster. His courageous expose of Senator McCarthy in 1954 was an important setback for the master of smear. Another of his ac-



On the air: Murrow (centre) as CBS anchorman with Winston Burdett (left) and General William Donovan

claimed TV specials were *Haves of Shame*, exposing the plight of migratory farm-workers in the US.

When John F. Kennedy became President, Murrow moved into government as head of the US Information Agency. But he was too in-

dependent to be comfortable in an official role. Professionally he built a tradition of independence for correspondents which prompted the *New York Times* to comment: "There is not a major commentator on any network who will not agree that whatever he is privileged

Six hundred and twenty-five bombers, supported by more than 600 fighters, had pounded the city. At 7.30 on Sunday night they were back, leaving almost 1,000 dead and 2,000 injured over the two nights. The comfortable, civilized city of a week before had turned into the front line - the night-time streets deserted, given over to the anti-aircraft batteries, the ambulances, the fire engines.

"There are no words to describe the thing that is happening," Murrow told his listeners, and then proceeded to describe it: "A row of automobiles, with stretchers raked on the roofs like skis, standing outside of bombed buildings. A man pinned under wreckage where a broken gas main sears his arms and face... the courage of the people; the flash and roar of the guns rolling down streets... the stench of air

to say today is in no small part due to Mr Murrow."

In a controversial speech to radio and TV news directors, Murrow spoke of his anxieties for the future of his business: "The top management of the networks... has been trained in advertising, research or show business. But they also make the final decisions having to do with news and public affairs. Frequently they have neither the time nor the competence to do this..."

"Unless we recognize that television is being used to distract, delude, amuse and sedate us, then television and those who finance it, those who look at it, and those who work at it, may see a totally different picture too late."

Murrow was a heavy smoker, often photographed with a cigarette. He was still three years short of 60 when he was struck down by lung cancer. A few weeks before his death in April 1965, he had been knighted by the Queen.

SATURDAY

High Society from screen to stage: Benny Green on the making of a musical: page 20

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TJ12/87/117

TRAVEL 2

Gateway to the sky

50

Concluding our series of action holidays for the over fifties, Rob Neillands describes a trek across the Pyrenees

You can send picture postcards from the refuge at Goriz. Those who think "So what?" just don't know Goriz - it's a hut set high above the Ordesa Canyon in the Spanish Pyrenees.

It's a mecca for walkers and climbers but a far cry from the popular Spanish costas. At Goriz postcards seemed wrong and strangely out of place, but then I saw a notice pinned above the postbox. "Postcards will only go down to the village when a donkey is free". After that I felt better.

Our three-day yomp across the Pyrenees, the centrepiece for the walking event in this series organized to celebrate my fiftieth year, began in style, with the voyage south from Plymouth to Santander. We lunched and dined on the ferry and sorted out our camping gear again to make the not-too-surprising discovery that we had far too much.

From Santander to our starting point at Torla is around 250 miles, so we took a full day driving there, stopping on the way for lunch in Castro Urdiales. We took several hours over that - anything to put off the moment when our rucksacks had to be humped.

Torla lies at the entrance to the Ordesa canyon and, with the frontiers closed, an early start was recommended by the hotel proprietor. In our case this meant it was about 11am before we started plodding up the road towards the Parque Nacional del Valle d'Ordesa, where we stopped for a two-hour lunch. Begin as you



Pyrenean mountain slog: spectacular view from a pathway near the French-Spanish border

mean to go on, that's my motto.

The Ordesa Canyon is one of the natural wonders of the Spanish Pyrenees, a vast and very beautiful cleft in the mountains, a place of soaring ochre-coloured cliffs, deep green pines and sparkling torrents. It rises in a series of giant's footsteps, providing a natural route into France through the Brèche de Roland. We would then make our way round the famous Cirque de Vagarnie in the Parque Nacional des Pyrénées and drop down to our destination at Luz in the Pays Toy.

We ambled along gently on the first day, passing many other walkers. On the way we discussed the merits of self-heating soup and the existence of the legendary desman - supposedly an aquatic rat with a small trunk. That night we camped beside a rushing stream and dreamt of desmans, waking in great alarm at the sound of panic outside - were we being attacked by desmans? No, a cow was eating our bread.

Day two began with the intention of swiftly getting into France, but the terrain

and our usual late start put a stop to that.

When we arrived at Goriz it was packed. Walkers and climbers assemble here to walk the canyon or climb Monte Perdido (3,355m). Our last day began well with a clear and glorious mountain morning. We climbed away from Goriz, walking across grassy meadows beside shallow lakes glazed with a thin film of ice, and began to climb toward the Brèche de Roland.

The Brèche soars up like a gateway in the sky, drawing you on. But seeing your destination is one thing, getting there another. It took all day as we got lost.

When we finally arrived, we found the gap thronged with French people, who had chewed our vast collection of

mountain gear for Jane Fonda trackuits and tennis shoes.

Once through the Brèche we had to negotiate a snowfield on the northern slope, but another half-hour brought us to the Club Alpin Français hut above Gavarnie, which serves a terrific hot soup and offers an equally terrific view across the sheer glaciated face of the famous Cirque. And so one last fog to the car park and a lift down the mountain to our destination, the Hotel de Londres in Luz-St-Sauveur, the capital of the Pays Toy.

We spent three days here, loafing about in glorious sunshine, inspecting the ski facilities at Barèges, and searching for the dreaded desman, which failed to appear. Well, maybe next time. I'm sure we are going to go back, but with less kit.

178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0A1 (01-491 7622). Brittany Ferries run throughout the year to Santander and the Parque des Pyrénées is easily reached via Toulouse and Lourdes with Dan Air. Wise walkers will take the sensible minimum, but boots are essential.

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ASTA No. 62000 TIMES 4

OUT AND ABOUT

Celebrating Mary's ghost

Exactly 400 years ago this weekend Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle. Anne Whitehouse gives a selection of the events to commemorate her tragic life and death



When Mary Queen of Scots paraded through the streets of Edinburgh five years ago, she caused something of a furore. The fact that it was the city of Sheffield promoting "their" Queen down Scotland's Royal Mile was seen at the very least as cheeky.

But Sheffield was quite unrepentant. A Scot, Mary might be, but she actually spent more time south of the border than north. "We had her for 14 years," boasts Keith Cheetham, Sheffield publicity officer and chairman of England's liaison committee for the quatercentenary of her death.

Since then the rivalry seems to have died down and the two countries have learnt how the story of the Stewart monarch can be used to mutual advantage. The Scottish cities were prompted by the Sheffield initiative to get their act together, and the events of 1987 are designed to promote a good interchange of tourism across the border.

It is 400 years ago today that

the Queen sat alone, into the early hours, writing her farewell letters, making gifts of her last remaining jewels and drafting her will within the grim confines of Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire.

The following morning, dressed in black satin and velvet, she walked with dignity and composure into the hushed Great Hall, to hear her death warrant read before

several hundred spectators. It must have been an inauspicious spectacle, the hall, once the scene of feasting and merriment, plunged into silence, its walls draped in black, and on a dais the black-clad headman with his axe and block.

Romance, treachery and intrigue surround her colourful and eventful story with its plots, counter-plots, abduc-

tions, and dramatic cross-country rides, but while her early years and her final trial and execution have captured the imagination of writers and historians, her years of captivity, no less turbulent, remain something of an enigma.

This year's celebrations should redress the balance: now everywhere with a Mary Queen of Scots connection is cashing in on the act.

OUTINGS AND PLACES TO SEE

Mary's execution. Make up in 16th-century style and sample contemporary delicacies. Exhibition on Stewarts in literature, legend and arts (May 25-Sep 3). National Library, George IV Bridge (031 226 4531).

LONDON: Wreath-laying at Westminster Abbey tomorrow, performed by Stewart Society at Mary's tomb. New graphic animated tableau to commemorate Mary's death, London Dungeon, 26-34 Tooley Street, SE1 (01-405 0606).

Places to see in England: Workington Hall, Cumbria

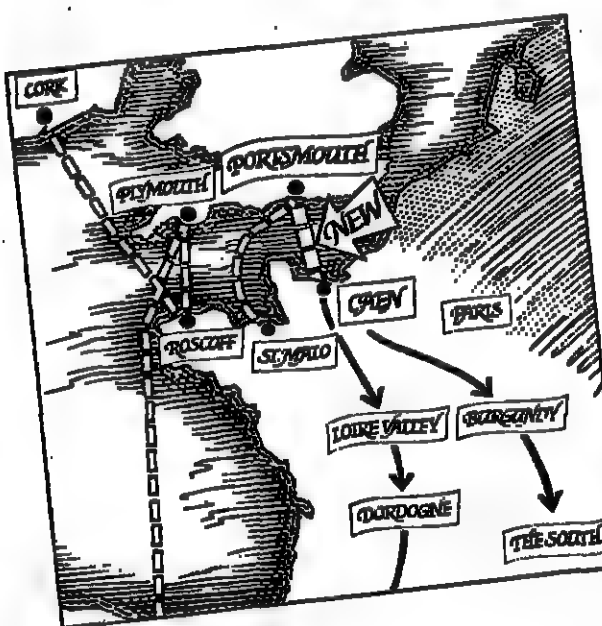
(ruined hall where Mary spent her first night in England in 1568); Carlisle Castle (Mary's first main lodging in England); Bolton Castle (Mary's next home); Tutbury Castle (Mary's most hated prison because of the smell and the damp, which gave her rheumatism); Wingfield Manor (to which Mary was moved for health reasons); Ashby de la Zouch Castle, Leicestershire (Mary was brought here to be at a distance from uprisings in north); Buxton, Derbyshire (Mary was allowed to visit the spa town to take the waters for her rheumatism); Titchell

Hall, Staffordshire (another of Mary's prisons); Hatfield House, Hertfordshire (letters to Mary and draft of her death warrant).

Places to see in Scotland: Linlithgow Palace (Mary's birthplace); Jedburgh (summer festival at Mary's house); Dundrennan Abbey (where Mary spent her last night before fleeing to England); Hermitage Castle (where Mary visited the wounded Bothwell); Dumbarton Castle (from where Mary left for France); Inchmahome Priory, near Abertoy (ruined priory on island in Lake of Menteith, where the infant Mary was sent for safekeeping).

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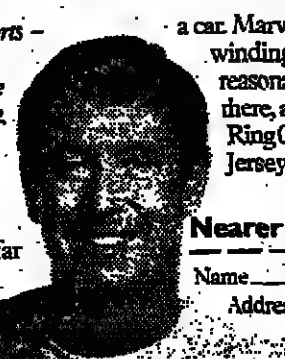
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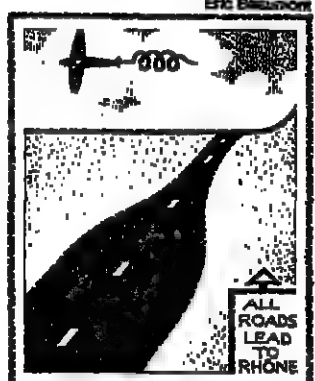
Return of the Rhône ranger

The Rhône area is an ideal source of those big beefy winter reds that not only keep out the cold but make perfect partners for all sorts of hearty winter food.

Graham Chidgey from Laytons, the Malmesbury Wine Club and Caves de la Madeleine, scoured the southern Rhône recently, seeking winter bargains among lesser known villages. His finds are available at Caves de la Madeleine, 301 Fulham Road, London, SW10, and also feature in Laytons winter Rhône offer, which has just been released.

The star in the line-up for me is a smashing 1984 Châteauneuf-du-Pape from Domaine Croix de Bois, les fils d'Etienne Gonnert, priced at £7.50 from Caves de la Madeleine. Along with the delightful perfume comes a solid helping of firm fruit that gives backbone and bite, plus the ability to cope with winter stews and casseroles.

Another Rhône favourite from the same stable is the '84 Lirac, Les Queyrades, from André Mejan (Caves de la Madeleine, £4.90). This domaine is the third largest in Lirac, the next-door village to Châteauneuf, and Monsieur Mejan deliberately avoids using oak altogether in order to let the fruit shine out.



What gives his wine — made predominantly from the Grenache grape, topped up with Syrah — its power and finesse are the old Mourvèdre vines on this estate. It's the delicious with steak and kidney pudding (Laytons Wine Vaults, 19 Midland Road, London NW1, are holding a Rhône tasting today from 10am-4pm).

Tracking down mature Rhône reds for winter drinking is much more difficult than finding youthful versions. The Wine Society, Gunners Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts, has some wonderful examples of mature Rhône reds, mostly from the superb 1978 vintage, at some amazingly low prices. The most magnificent is the glorious 1978 Gigondas from Paul Jaboulet Aîné, priced, for a mature Rhône, at a bargain £8.75. It's delicious with winter roasts.

Australian wines are, happily, being stocked by an increasingly wide variety of outlets. Rosemount, probably the name most often seen, but the Hill-Smith winery, in South Australia's Barossa valley, is catching up rapidly. Their Yalumba Signature Series label has a splendid 1983 Cabernet-Shiraz in its range. Its rich fruity-minty, almost eucalyptus-like, taste makes it Australia's answer to the Cabernet from Heitz Marib's Vineyard in California.

As yet, only Majestic Wine Warehouses stock the '83 vintage of this wine for £4.89. Go along and taste it at any branch on February 28-March 1, their Australian wine week-end, but both Sainsbury's and Cullens will be moving on to the superior 1983 vintage shortly.

Jane MacQuitty

THE TIMES COOK



Back to scratch

Shona Crawford Poole finds the extra flavour of new-style free-range chickens just the thing to revive simple, old-fashioned dishes

Deliciously expensive is not a description of his prices that one expects from a poultry producer. Wiltshire farmer Richard Guy has faced the facts of producing chickens without the help of growth-promoting hormones and routine antibiotics and the words are his.

He also allows his birds unrestricted access to fresh air and such sun as shines on Salisbury Plain, and calculates the extra cost at 50 per cent. This increase reflects precisely the longer time it takes the more naturally reared bird to reach table weight.

The arguments for letting chickens grow at their own pace, allowing them to forage out of doors and dosing them with medicines only when they are sick, touch on a wide range of concerns about animal welfare and economics. There is also the cooks' question of whether this kind of chicken tastes half as good again as its younger, intensively farmed fellow.

Another factor in the flavour equation concerns hanging the birds after slaughter, a process which intensifies the chicken taste quite remarkably. The birds that Richard Guy, and other farmers whose produce fulfils the requirements of his Real Meat Company, sell are New York-dressed, which means that they are plucked immediately after slaughter, but not gutted, in preparation for hanging by the butcher for anything from one day to three weeks.

Those of us reared on factory-farmed birds, which seem to go off all too quickly, may think a well-hung chicken likely to constitute a health hazard, but we would be wrong.

Not only does this kind of poultry taste vastly superior to the best battery chicken; it has more flavour than the maize-fed, free-range but not hung chickens I have tried. The

flesh of the older, organically reared chicken is also denser, yet just as tender.

Richard Guy started the Real Meat Company two years ago with his farmer wife, Gillian Metherell. The company buys meat, poultry and eggs only from producers who meet its stringent no-chemicals policy, and it has its own shop, of the same name, in Ilth.

The latest in a fast-growing list of enthusiastic stockists is the Natural Foods Butchers Shop, which opened this week in Kingston-upon-Thames to sell Real Meat Company products exclusively.

If fine ingredients simply cooked are the true basis of the British kitchen, then traditional produce like organically farmed chickens allow us to rediscover the good sense and good taste of plain cooking. An unadorned roast is the best introduction to the merits of these birds.

Roast chicken
Serves four to six
1 free-range chicken, about 1.8kg (4lb) oven weight
5g (1½oz) softened butter
1 sprig thyme, fresh or dried
1 bay leaf, crumbled
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the gravy
The chicken's giblets and stock vegetables
Or 150ml (¼pt) chicken stock

Cut off the wingtips for the stockpot and wipe the chicken inside and out. Put a walnut-sized piece of butter into the cavity, together with the thyme, bay, salt and pepper.

Truss the bird with string or skewers, pinning the legs and wings close to its sides.

Place the chicken in a buttered roasting tin and smear the rest of the softened butter over the breast and thighs. Roast it in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for about 1½ hours, basting it once or twice. Check that it is fully cooked by sticking a skewer into the thickest part of the leg, close to the body. The juices should run clear or golden, but not pink.

Lift the chicken on to a large plate and leave it to rest in a warm place for 10 minutes. This vital step allows the meat, especially the fine breast flesh, to settle after cooking. It makes neat carving a realistic possibility and less moisture will be lost in the process.

Make the giblet stock before roasting the chicken or while it is in the oven. Put the giblets and wingtips — not the liver, which can be lightly sautéed and served on toast or in a salad — into a saucepan with a roughly chopped carrot and onion. Cover with cold water, bring to a simmer and skim thoroughly. Add bay, thyme and a little salt and pepper, and simmer for about an hour. Strain and reduce to about 150ml (¼pt) by fast boiling.

Make the gravy, skim the fat from the roasting tin and pour in the stock. Stir over a medium heat, scraping up the caramelized juices. Reduce it a little, season, and strain into a hot jug. For a thicker gravy, stir in a little potato flour mixed with water or white wine, or a little diced, chilled butter. Serve with traditional winter vegetables or lightly cooked mangetout and new potatoes.

Poaching, a fashionably fatless method of cooking, is another way of showing off the superior flavour of a well-bred properly hung chicken. Wrapping boneless skinned chicken breasts in plastic kitchen wrap seals in all the flavour, doing away with the need for stock as the poaching liquid.

Poached chicken
Serves two
2 boneless chicken breasts, skinned
Salt
2 sprigs chervil

Cut a square of clingy plastic wrap and lay it on a clean surface. Put a sprig of chervil or coriander in the centre and a chicken breast, smooth side down. Season with salt and wrap into a self-sealing parcel, excluding as much air as possible. Wrap the second piece of chicken the same way.

Heat a large pan of water to boiling and drop in the wrapped chicken. Bring back almost to the boil, reduce the heat to a bare simmer and poach the chicken for 10 to 15 minutes, depending on size. Remove it from the water and leave it to rest in a warm place, still wrapped, for five minutes.

Remove the plastic and serve with a sauce of fresh puréed vegetables. Watercress, sweated in a little butter, cooked in chicken stock and puréed is one possibility. Leeks, carrots, sweet peppers and many more vegetables can be turned into silky sauces.

For a full list of stockists, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Real Meat Company, East Hill Farm, Heyesbury, Warrminster, Wiltshire BA12 0HR.

Escalopes of salmon

The penultimate paragraph of last week's guest cook recipe for salmon escalopes should have begun: "Add 12 fl oz of cream".

EATING OUT

A pike at the opera, a whine about wine

In a taste of gastronomic déjà vu, Jonathan Meades visits two French restaurants which now have new names and new chefs

Three or so years ago Interlude de Tabailau and Gastronomie One were among the most consistently lauded of London's French restaurants. Now each has changed its name and its chef, and one has a new proprietor and the other new premises.

All this might have meant scampi in the basket, piped Richard Claydeman and "themed" interiors. It's to the credit of everyone concerned that things aren't really all that different. Interlude de Tabailau was named for its proximity to the Royal Opera House and for its former chef-proprietor, J. L. Taillebaud, who has gone to preside over the kitchens of a mega-hotel in Philadelphia. (The attractions of owning and cooking may be great, but those of cooking without having to worry quite so personally about costs may sometimes outweigh them.)

At any rate the new chef here, Jeremy Blake O'Connor, is not the owner. One result of this seems to be that Interlude, as it's now called, is no longer somewhere to go to be insulted by the staff, someone has bothered to recruit a dozen young French waiters who are not actively anglophobic, a notable achievement.

Further, there is greater consistency in the cooking. Mr Blake O'Connor may not be preying to his predecessor's intermittently idiosyncratic brilliance, but nor is he prone to the terrible lapses that made any meal a gamble.

The last time I ate there under the former regime I was presented with a pot-au-feu that recalled the gristle-starved stew I used to smuggle from my school's dining hall in my pockets. Such an occurrence is probably now unthinkable. The trouble with dinner here is that you have to eat too early or too late. There are two sittings, the second to accommodate persons in fur coats who have just swooned out of the opera in a state of catatonic delirium. So the first sitting begins at 7.15 or 7.30pm, and towards the end of it the chances of attracting a waiter's attention greatly diminish, so preoccupied is the staff with the imminent second service. Best not to loiter then, even if the succession of rich dishes might make you want to.

This included a pleasant if unexciting two-tier terrine of pike and salmon, with the latter predictably over-serviced (pike is the most delicate of freshwater fish, the subtlety of its flavour being in inverse proportion to that of its muggier's manners); a poached lamb's brain given a

sort of vet college presentation — whole and bald, with a fine cream and caper sauce and a chunk of flaky pastry; veal loin surrounded by thinly sliced veal kidney, shallots and mushrooms in a wetter-weight Madeira sauce; a rather meagre portion of moist salmon with walnut oil; an orange-flavoured mousse or milk pudding, laid twice on puddles of custard; a rubbery white and dark chocolate mousse whose sauce had been submitted to that infuriating comb-work that gives things the look of unambitiously marbled book-ends.

The only other thing I positively disliked was the heat of the plates, which is such that the waiters are bound to fumble them: it's like having placed beneath your chin large round radiators that cause a film of skin to develop on the sauces they bear. The canapés and sweets are OK, a "79 Bandol from Ch. des Vaucluses was much more than OK, and the majority of the punters know how to hold their eating irons. The bill: £70 for two.

there is veal with a memorable and oddly peppery sauce of vanilla. Cèpes featured to better effect as the stuffing of melting ravioli whose dough was like first division piroshki dough. M. Aubugeau is also a fine charcutier, and his terrine made from duck confit is superb — succulent and soft as rilletes with a centre of foie gras. He does a pretty impressive potato galette as well.

Quite why he sees fit to decorate his dishes with bits of lettuce and sculpted tomato is a mystery; this is a practice that the place's owner, an architect who has shown a decent restraint in the decoration of his premises, should proscribe. He should also do something about the price of his wines: were he to look around a bit more, he might find some bargains to pass on to his customers.

There are commendable cheeses here, served (oddly for a French place) with catenacs that are like chapatis baked to desiccation. A walnut and chocolate cake came in a sea of custard that was deemed oversweet. Given that only a



Gastronomie One used to be an awkwardly-shaped basement full of bickering couples. It is now Le Gastronomie, is on the no less awkwardly-shaped ground floor of the building next door to its former premises, and its clientele seems better tempered. The chef who was here is now, after a series of remarkably short engagements elsewhere, at Le Petit Blanc in Oxford. And it's from that city that the current chef, one Thierry Aubugeau, gets his supplies of quite outstanding meat.

There is beef with a not entirely proper sauce made from, I guess, dried cèpes; dozen or so people were eating the night I went — prices are doubtless on the high side for suburban Fulham — the service, though willing, wasn't on the ball. With an indifferent Côte-rôtie the bill was £65.

Interlude, 7-8 Bow Street WC2 (01-279 6473). Open noon-2pm Mon to Fri and 7-11.30pm Mon to Sat. Le Gastronomie, 309 New Kings Road SW6 (01-731 6955). Open noon-2pm Mon to Fri and 7-10.30pm Mon to Sat. The phone number of the Czech Club, which I wrote about on January 24, is 01-328 0131.

SHOPPING

Designer rooms at the top

Since 1933 Colefax and Fowler has been catering for the very rich, decorating their town and country houses in chintz fabrics and fine wallpapers.

Now trendy younger executives, in search of an interiors

package edited by an established retailer, are likely to be tempted by the off-the-peg furnishings and co-ordinating accessories available at the company's new showroom which opened yesterday in the Fulham Road, London.

For, along with style-conscious Saturday morning punts from other fashionable shops — designer watches, for example, or matt black objects of desire — the upwardly mobile will be able to stock up their homes with a cachepot or carpet, a lamp or a lap rug, a shoebag or sofa.

Colefax and Fowler have come up with a new collection of occasional furniture, specially designed to work alongside antique pieces in a traditional setting. Upholstery, furniture, carpets and curtains are displayed together in situ making it easy to envisage different combinations in your own home.

Many of the new accessories are either designed in the company's studio or made exclusively for them, including a selection of blue and white English Delftware pottery. Some of the furnishing ideas deserve full marks — the hand-painted velvet cushions (see photograph), for example, the heath rugs hand-made in Portugal and Italian table lamps, all made to exclusive designs.

Stencilling is a decorating technique that's easier than most to master. Oil-based paints in crayon form, which help avoid smudging, and packs of pre-cut stencils are offered by Stencil Decor who have 60 different designs from Victorian to contemporary in their collection.

For a leaflet showing the full range, send 9in x 4in s.a.e. to Eurostudio Ltd, Unit 4, Southdown Industrial Estate, Southdown Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1PU.

Stencil Decor is on sale at DIY shops and department stores and until February 14



Strawberry Blair: Hand-painted cushion on antique velvet

daily stencil demonstrations will take place in Liberty's Home Ideas department.

Anyone who likes contemporary art but has a limited budget will find a huge range of work by young professional painters, sculptors, print-makers and photographers, priced between £25 and £500, at Art Store, 36 Store Street, London WC1, from February 9-28, Monday to Saturday, 10.30am - 6.30pm. A selection of one-off furniture, collages, jewellery, hand-painted fabrics, china and ceramics will also be on sale.

Nicole Swengley



Take a seat: steel garden chair, £575, by Nicholas Vestor

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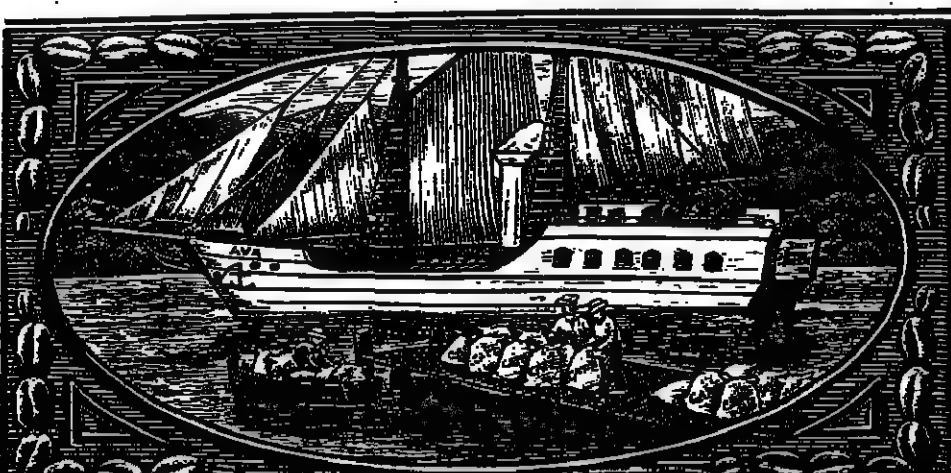
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THE ARTS

Evidence gap

Like a half comfortable itch, *Indelible Evidence* (BBC2) continues to creep and irritate in equal measure. In a dramatically reconstructed real crime, some crucial element of the mystery should be

TELEVISION

kept up the sleeve, just as in a fictional police-procedural. The first programme blithely dramatized the murderer's false story, which might be thought a naughty thing to do; the second got the balance spot on: last night's treatment spelled out the whole matter and then created a lacuna at its very crux.

A gas metre bandit from Basingstoke, wanted in France for shooting a *flic*, set out one day to rob a bank in London. In the course of the raid he killed a bank clerk. Hundreds of helpful passers-by scrambled the police investigation by identifying one another as witnesses. Forensic tests proved the fatal cartridge to have contained No.7 game shot, an unremarkable projectile made by a large manufacturer.

Meanwhile, back in Basingstoke, Chummy stuck

up a filling station and the law gave chase. A constabulary voice assured that what was found in the boot of his car linked him to the London bank raid. It was a great puzzle that we were not clearly shown what this evidence was. The only breakthrough by the forensic boys consisted of demonstrating that trap-shooting cartridges found in the suspect's house in fact contained game-shot. But if he had not confessed after his abortive suicide attempt, would a conviction have been secured?

Following on the same channel, *Arena* profiled the pioneering Peruvian photographer Martin Chambi, whose pelucid studies of his fellow Indians have the moving quality of sublime innocence. In a bizarre society where Marxist mayors embrace the rituals of Inca sun worship, which in turn informs the official Catholic religion, Chambi has been taken up as a kind of secular saint of national identity. The cameraman of Herzog's *Fitzcarraldo* and the excellent choice of music in *Stepping Out* (John Golden Theatre), which I loved but most of my colleagues dismissed as shallow. I only hope this proves to be a case similar to that of *The Foreigner*, a comedy by Larry Shue which was widely panned but ran more than two years and is now being played in regional theatres across the land.

Word-of-mouth prolonged that, and if *Stepping Out* can hang on I believe audiences will support it.



Leonard Bernstein in 1945

1958 to appoint Bernstein as principal conductor. His crowning triumph, however, came in Vienna when — single-handedly and against overwhelming odds — he taught that naughty ensemble how to play Mahler's music properly.

Bernstein talking is infinitely less convincing than Bernstein conducting. Few can make Brahms live so ebulliently, or Mahler die so protractedly. So perhaps his thesis is reasonable. In this programme, certainly, no one in the three orchestras disputes it. There again, no one as humble as an orchestral musician gets a word in edgeways.

For the Israelis it was when Bernstein led them into the Sinai Desert to play Mozart at fresco at the height of the 1948 war. For the New York Philharmonic it was the years of glory following the decision in

Richard Morrison

Broadway melodies fall flat

There are new plays and entertainments by the score on Broadway, but few of them have staying power. Holly Hill reports from New York, while Jeremy Kingston and Harry Eyres review the London openings



Split personality: Lynn Redgrave (standing) and Mary Tyler Moore as the two halves of Sweet Sue in the comedy of the same name, with John K. Linton as the object of their interest

and exits are glimpsed, quickening the show's pace) and getting a maximum of humour and pathos from an admirable cast. My reaction to the London production I saw last summer was tepid, but I left the Broadway version feeling I had wings on my heels and in my heart. No such luck with *Wild Honey*, which was not nearly as good at Broadway's Virginia Theatre as at

the Lyttelton. The wonderful sets looked cramped on the smaller stage and, though the American cast included many actors who have done excellent work elsewhere, they were out of tune with Ian McKellen and each other. The reviews were mixed, and only rave and/or a major movie would draw Broadway audiences to Chekhov.

Still another disappointment is

A.R. Gurney Jr's new comedy *Sweet Sue* (Music Box). The author of *The Dining Room* has an intriguing idea for a play about friendship within the self, but he does not write it until half-way through the second act. Until then, the story appears just another tale of a May-to-December attraction between a woman and a much younger man, tricked up by the

device of having each character played by two actors.

The twin sets eventually emerge not as alter egos but as representatives of the varying reactions people feel and hear within themselves on the way to presenting a united front to others. Engagingly played by Lynn Redgrave and Mary Tyler Moore, the title-role is a likeable personality confronting domestic, career and romantic dilemmas. Miss Redgrave is especially touching in a scene where she denies her attraction to the young man in words while her expression is a study in longing, but the writing enlists concern for the characters too late.

The only cheerful news Off Broadway, apart from a solid revival of *A Man for All Seasons* at the Roundabout Theatre, is *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* (Circle Repertory Company). Actors, composer, librettist and a director gather in a country mansion to audition a Broadway musical for a wealthy backer. Elsa von Grossenknecht. The creative team previously collaborated on a musical which closed after chorus girls were murdered and, between solving those murders and new ones, and catching a spy, the action is brisk.

John Bishop's clever, slightly overladen plot borrows merrily from *See How They Run* (Nazi spies on the loose), *Arctic* and *Old Lace* and *It's Only a Play* (send-ups of Broadway and Hollywood), thrillers, with secret passages, blizzards, characters who are not what they say they are, eccentric servants and surprise detectives. The result is giddy good fun, a tonic in short supply as New York theatre slides into its annual doldrums.

animals with his catapult, murdered a man, broke his mother's heart and is out of hospital on some sort of parole.

Facts accumulate but no character comes from them. Contemptuous one moment and soft-headed the next, his behaviour obeys allegory's dictates, and when these demand that he warm the black man's festering body with his own, he dutifully takes off his clothes and clambers on to him.

It is a tribute to the memorably named Gary Cooper that he not only looks the part of a young bruiser but suggests that somewhere inside him is a real and troubled character, if only the author had given him the words with which to haul it out.

J.K.

The Guest Room

Old Red Lion

Nothing of course justifies the stream of racial abuse Julian now pours over him, but when Angelo (for it is he) opens his mouth he establishes himself as even more unattractive than his persecutor: aggressive, vindictive, snarling, unwashed, unpleasantly bedagged around the foot and covered in sores. Some memory begins to stir. A test of faith? Proof of love? He that careth for the least of these my servants...

Facts to do with Julian's past are supplied by a visionary Thelma from next door, played by Fenella Fielding with flashes of her quaint smile and a voice pitched in the region of Kenneth Williams. Julian liked killing wild

J.K.

PREVIEW

The Love of Three Orchestras

BBC2 (tonight)

Only Leonard Bernstein would describe a conductor's relationship with an orchestra as "a love-affair in which you and a body are breathing together, pulsing together". In *The Love of Three Orchestras* the maestro reveals that, in orchestral terms anyway, he is an incorrigible polygamist.

The programme — part interview, part old clips — seems designed primarily to allow Bernstein to present his unique thesis of 20th-century orchestral history. The thesis consists of identifying the periods when those three proud Philharmonics — the New York, Israel and Vienna — were playing at their absolute peak as being (by an extraordinary coincidence) the exact times when each orchestra was working most closely with Leonard Bernstein.

For the Israelis it was when Bernstein led them into the Sinai Desert to play Mozart at fresco at the height of the 1948 war. For the New York Philharmonic it was the years of glory following the decision in



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Richard Morrison

Terrors of Pleasure

Donmar Warehouse

Spalding Gray is a kind of WASP Woody Allen — an actor-cum-writer-cum-monomologist who makes humour very directly from his own life and experiences. He is a tall, rather elegant American in his mid forties, halfway between an actor and an academician in appearance, still youthful despite the grey hair.

He speaks from an ordinary-looking table with a microphone in front of him, sometimes referring to an ordinary-looking notebook and slipping from a rather academic glass of water. But the glass of water turns into a prop when he is describing the sensation of drinking from his holiday home's polluted well, in which, he speculates, a depressed racoon has committed suicide.

Terrors of Pleasure is centred on this house — situated in beautiful country in the Catskill Mountains — which Gray bought five years ago. Orphanhood has brought more terror than pleasure; the quaint old house is riddled with death-watch beetle ("cancer of the house"), as one of the builders Gray has round to look it over gleefully remarks, the chimney leaks, but worst of all the foundations are rotten and the house is sinking. Though the main focus is unashamedly egocentric, Gray, using the microphone artfully to suggest different tones and voices, summons to life a whole cast of eccentric characters, such as the Brooklyn barber who tells him the

house and reveals in the first 20 minutes of conversation that he has a gaseous leg, a dicky heart and, like King Lear, three ungrateful daughters.

Why should we be interested in Spalding Gray's house? It is because he manages to communicate both his timorous, threatened pleasure and his multiple terrors through a subtle blend of acting and simple man-to-man story-telling. At the end of the performance one is left feeling that there is a lot more to Spalding Gray than he has revealed. That is quite a compliment to pay to someone who has monopolized a conversation for an hour and a half.

H.E.
Spalding Gray will be performing at Riverside tomorrow.

This enterprising pub theatre has a record of presenting worthwhile plays, but James Hogan's laboured allegory is not one of them. Being an allegory is no excuse.

A programme note warns audiences that what they are about to see brings the legend of Saint Julian the Hospitaller into a contemporary perspective. Few of us will be any the wiser for this information, but a glance at the cast-list reveals the presence of one Julian, sure enough, and a second character ominously named Angelo.

The events occur in a truly grotty room littered with lo-rolls, empty bottles and a thousand rag-ends stubbed out on the carpet. "Pardon me if I puke", remarks Julian to the unresponsive black man (Vincent Ebrahim) in the squalid bed.

Endymion Ensemble/Whitfield

St John's

This concert was the first of a series of five that the Endymion Ensemble has planned under the collective title "Impressions". The intention is to provide a new look at the way Ravel influenced his contemporaries and his successors, including five eminent present-day British composers. All the programmes look enticing, and Wednesday night's sounded attractive too, with pieces by Schoenberg, Ligeti and John McCabe sitting comfortably side by side with Ravel's *Trois Poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé*. But were there really obvious and important connections? I think not.

The title of McCabe's *Rainforest*, here receiving its British premiere, immediately puts one in mind of Takemitsu, whose similarly aquatic *Water Ways* and *Rain Spell* will be heard later in the series. Sure enough, the glockenspiel's repeated notes at the beginning and end of McCabe's work, which are intended to evoke the sub-tropical rain-forest of southern Queensland, do briefly recall the atmosphere of a piece like Takemitsu's *Rain Tree*, for instance.

Where Takemitsu can create for himself a concentrated, positively sensual atmosphere, however, McCabe, with his three separate groups of piano trio, string quartet and an ensemble of flute, clarinet and that glockenspiel, builds a slow-fast-slow structure of inordinate and diffuse vastness, even though he makes some beautiful sounds in the process.

Concentration is certainly one of the hallmarks of Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto* (1969-70), a piece which revels in its own discovery of new colours, new and subtle harmonic relationships and new, dynamic forms. If this was not a flagrantly virtuosic performance, it was one which involuntarily lured the listener into the music.

To end with, there was a tenacious performance of Schoenberg's seminal and frantic *First Chamber Symphony*; but in the Ravel, which preceded it, Jane Manning's singing sounded timid and expressionless. John Whitfield conducted convincingly throughout.

S.P.

CONCERTS

Classical Winds

Wigmore Hall

Those wind players who aim to resurrect the sounds of the 18th century have their work cut out for them if they are to achieve the sort of reliability taken for granted from those who favour 20th century designs.

For though things have improved, you are still more likely to encounter short-comings from the oboes and horns in a period style orchestra than from any other quarter. They, it seems, yield their old secrets slowly.

Thus in attempting to recreate the sounds of a classical wind sextet (two oboes, two horns and two bassoons) Classical Winds have embarked upon a particularly hazardous path, simply because without the mask of a string section any infelicities shout out loud.

But more distressing than the old misjudged horn embouchure or the occasional mistuned oboe note in this Early Music Network concert was the effect that incidents had upon the group's confidence. When you are wary of putting a foot wrong it has to make listening to your colleagues with the concentration necessary for perfect ensemble all the more difficult, and the result here was an unfortunately raggedness.

For some reason the two horns seemed more comfortable in the flatter keys, so that Mozart's *Divertimento* in F, K253, and in E flat, K289, and Salieri's *Piccioletta Serenata* in B flat were noticeably better in that department at least than the Haydn *Divertimento* in G, which began the concert.

But however imperfectly it was played, there was one unarguable benefit in hearing this slight, though unerringly decorous and deceptively artificial music in such guise. Although the sound quality was relatively thin, each instrument took on a character more precisely defined than is the case within a modern-style group.

Given a larger measure of experience, or perhaps it was a matter of luck, since they have already made two fine records, this ensemble has the necessary musicianship to exploit that advantage to the full.

Stephen Pettitt

Keeping Venice afloat

The Saving of Venice

Warwick Arts Trust

In November 1966 Florence and Venice suffered disastrous floods that drew world attention to the perilous state of their cultural heritage. The damage inflicted on Florence was more acute, demanding immediate attention. Only later did concern shift to Venice, where damage was not so much caused by the flood as symbolized by it. The problem there was less the sudden destruction of works of art, rather the gradual disintegration of the city's fabric, through a combination of high tides, subsidence and atmospheric pollution.

The imaginative exhibition now at the Warwick Arts Trust (until February 22) commemorates 20 years of restoration effort which followed that fateful November. Devised by Milton Grundy, *The Saving of Venice* illustrates some of the triumphs and more intractable problems in safeguarding a unique urban texture. It also marks the first time that material about restoration programmes of the Italian government, Unesco, the British Venice in Peril fund and other national committees has been gathered together.

In Florence, international help provided funds and extra hands for sorting out and cleaning artefacts before leaving the Italians to finish the job. In Venice, a different policy evolved; buildings and other landmarks were targeted for special attention by English, American or other committees, often acting in concert with each other and invariably in partnership with the Italian authorities.

Two galleries at the Warwick Arts Trust illustrate the variety of problems tackled by Venice in Peril and sister organizations. They range from the Loggetta in St Mark's Square — one of the first structures to be restored — to the ancient parish church of San Nicolò dei Mendicoli, the Gheto synagogues and the *squero* or gondola yard at San Trovaso.

The photographs on display are well chosen, demonstrating very eloquently the variety of problems presented by the buildings and the works of art. The achievements, too, are notable: new laboratories for the conservation of paintings and stonework have been established, new techniques were devised for handling the huge canvases of Tintoretto and other painters during restoration; floors and walls have been reconstructed, damp courses applied and roofs repaired.

The exhibition pays handsome tribute to the work of Venice in Peril and the other committees as well as the Italian government. While foreign organizations have spent some \$11m the Italian government has contributed more than \$40m, both directly and indirectly.

Given the overlapping of several tiers



How Justice was done: the Venetian statue after cleaning and restoration

of government, the foreign committees have had to limit their interventions to projects of a more public nature but even so many, like San Nicolò and the Madonna dell'Orto, have been located in unfashionable areas, far from St Mark's. Attention has also been drawn to restoring popular housing which, as Milton Grundy notes, is equally necessary for the survival of Venice.

The tone set by the exhibition is cautiously optimistic, but it does not ignore the negative side. The general problems of ecological balance within the Venetian lagoon and the tidal

barriers still remain, as the Italians would say, *in alto mare*. Some restorations, too, have not been successful, and Venice in Peril's current work on the venerable Santa Maria Mater Domini has ground to a halt for lack of matching funds from Rome.

The future of Venice lies ultimately with the Italians, but her cultural heritage belongs to a wider constituency as well. Anyone in love with Venice will hope that the work of the past 20 years is only the first chapter in a brighter future.

Bruce Boucher

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REVIEW

Party politics, party music

ROCK RECORDS

The Style Council: The Cost of Loving (Polydor TSCLP4)
Various Artists: The Roxy London WC2 (Jan-Apr 77) (Harvest EMS1189)

Paul Weller has crystallized rock's amorphous affiliation to the left, a bias born out of the genre's traditional links with notions of protest and romantic radicalism, and has sought to employ both his influence as a pop star and, to a lesser extent, The Style Council's music as a campaign platform for the Labour Party.

But music, for all its undoubted power to affect emotions and sway individual opinions, is a notoriously awkward tool to apply to specific practical goals. Weller is aware of the limitations and apart from "Right To Go", an electioneering rap jingle that warns "every vote wasted is our hopes lost", and "Fairy Tales", a story about an evil giant who exhorts her subjects "to buy shares in things that we already own", *The Cost of Loving* is relatively free of bald didacticism.

Instead, there is the smooth, morose soul of "Waiting" and the recent single "It Doesn't Matter", where the Council continue their excursions into Sade's late-night easy-listening territory, and the rather rockier veiled tract of "Heav-



Style councillor: Paul Weller. "Above", a song that embraces the nuances of genuine soul music about as firmly as a Spandau Ballet record.

Weller's limited vocal range is bolstered by Dee C Lee, who sings "A Woman's Song" with considerable sensitivity, and the swirling title-track is propelled by Mick Talbot's chunky piano and rich Hammond organ breaks.

All of which is in sharp contrast to *Live At The Roxy*, a timely reminder of the punk excesses that spawned Weller and many of his peers a decade ago. X-Ray Spex, The Buzzcocks, The Adverts, Wire and others screech and splutter wretched songs about bondage, breakdown and bored teenagers, while microphones hidden round the club pick up the random sounds of business as usual ("Is Sid Vicious in tonight?"). Not much talk about the Labour Party here.

David Sinclair

Back to the roots

BLUES RECORDS

Atlantic Blues (Atlantic 781 713-1, 8 discs)

From the most basic field holler collected on a pioneering folklorist's wire-recorder to the computer-mixed sophistication of Prince, the blues has been the spine and the yardstick of this century's popular music.

Following closely behind the mammoth *Atlantic Rhythm & Blues* anthology, which explored the roots and development of soul music, *Atlantic Blues*—four double-albums sub-titled *Vocalists*, *Piano*, *Guitar* and *Chicago*—digs deeper to reveal, as it were, the roots of those roots. With a few exceptions, the best of the 103 tracks are the earliest. The boogie-woogie pioneer Jimmy Yancey is represented by four marvelous tracks, recorded in 1951 in Chicago; like Yancey's piano, Blind Willie McTell's 12-string guitar, captured in

Atlanta two years earlier, benefits from the clarity of digital remastering.

John Lee Hooker's elemental voice and guitar, cut in Cincinnati in 1953, shudder across the years with undiminished impact. The likes of Joe Turner, T-Bone Walker and Professor Longhair receive their due, and mellow instrumentalists by the guitarist Mickey Baker and the pianist Vann Walls are a pleasant surprise.

The later material is where the problems occur. Although Albert King's "Crosscut Saw" (1966) and Cornell Dupree's "Blue Nocturne" (1973) are perfect examples of the basic blues coming to terms with a changing world, various festival performances from the Seventies and Eighties by such veterans as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and Otis Rush—all of whom were, in their prime, associated with the Chess label, one of Atlantic's chief rivals—demonstrate only declining powers.

Richard Williams

Prisoners of the system

PAPERBACKS

Bricks of Shame by Vivien Stern (Penguin Special, £5.95)

Vivien Stern's book is a vivid description of the present prison system and its recent history. One of her themes is that the prison population should be immediately reduced—but she does not say to what figure, nor how that figure should be established. Nor does she explain how her proposals can be reconciled with one of our constitutional safeguards—the independence of the judiciary. She encourages that

independence when it comes to prisoners' rights, but she wishes to restrict the judiciary when sentencing is involved.

Parliament has the duty to set the range of options, including a maximum prison sentence; but it is up to the judiciary to give the appropriate sentence in each case. We have provided this country with perhaps the widest and most flexible range of non-custodial sentences in Western Europe. It would be unacceptable restraint on the judiciary if the Home Secretary had to say to a judge: "You may not sentence that offender to prison because there is no room."

Miss Stern acknowledges that overcrowding is a problem which has been with us for many years. Sadly previous governments have not pro-

vided the necessary resources to reduce it. The overcrowding problem lies in the remand centres and local prisons, which are mainly old Victorian ones with poor facilities on a limited site. Until the proposed prisons in this country's biggest ever building programme become available, it will remain impossible to decant parts of an existing prison in order to refurbish it, and provide the integral sanitation which is required. This is planned.

Miss Stern argues powerfully for a change in the existing regimes operated by prison staff. But given that over a number of years the ratio of prison officers to inmates has improved, overtime worked by prison officers has gone up, and expenditure on the prison service reaches a new

height annually, one would have expected the regimes to improve proportionately. The fact that they haven't shows that something is drastically wrong, and a need for change is admitted by everyone involved.

Much has been done to improve the situation in recent years. We want to continue this policy. The often unknown world of prisons is more open than in the recent past. Vivien Stern's book will contribute to that and will surely broaden the debate—and that can only be of benefit to us all.

Malcolm Caithness

Lord Caithness is a Minister of State at the Home Office

Home from home

Stones of Empire: The Building of the Taj, by Jan Morris with Simon Winchester (Oxford £7.95)

Jan Morris is a genuine admirer of the buildings and monuments built by the British during their 300 years' occupation of India. The result is a marvellous short history of British India containing more than 150 black and white photographs.

Ostensibly a book about architecture, *Stones of Empire* has the wider purpose of seeing in the buildings themselves British imperialism at its most expressive. Morris is not blind to British mistakes in India, and in other hands her subject could have become a diatribe against colonialism; but that is not her aim. Instead we have an oddly moving account of an adventurous, seafaring and trading nation drawn inevitably into a complex association with a colourful and vivacious people very different from themselves.

Unlike other empires, we are reminded, the British never really possessed an ideology. Lacking the fanatic fire, their aspiration and objectives were guided instead by a strong sense of duty, a belief in God, and a passion for law and order.

As the government did not appoint its first consulting architect till 1902, it fell to the Royal Engineers to construct, with sun-dried bricks and crumbling stucco, facsimiles of English stately homes, Gibber-style churches, Georgian terraces, and colonnaded law-

courts in the unfamiliar tropical setting. By the middle of the 19th century the British empire was at the height of its powers, and neo-classicism had been displaced by Victorian Gothic. As an architectural fashion it was already elaborately decorated, and

encouraged by this, the builders began to borrow from Indian art for the first time. By 1947 there were "few villages in India where the empire-builders did not leave some physical sign".

Isabel Butterfield

Misplaced drama

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Fauré Requiem, Beethoven Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra/Giulini, DG419 243-2 (Compact Disc). Beethoven: Symphonies Nos 5 and 1, Philadelphia Orchestra/Muti, EMI CDG7 474472 (Compact Disc).

Carlo Maria Giulini certainly stamps his personality heavily upon the Fauré Requiem. His tempos tend to be ponderous to the point at which accuracy of ensemble suffers and the quality of the sound he encourages is

plumby, the vast chorus apparently complemented by an orchestra to match. This is a reading which attempts to turn a work of sweet piety into something altogether too self-consciously dramatic. Kathleen Battle tackles the "Pie Jesu", very much in Giulini's spirit, treating it as an operatic aria where it demands the innocent ap-

proach of a boy. But the baritone, Andreas Schmidt, is a different matter. He gauges his solos perfectly, expressing himself in a gentler and thus more telling way. There are some properly French-sounding organ

registrations from Timothy Farrell, but at low dynamic levels the blend of the choral singing often leaves much to be desired. Riccardo Muti's Beethoven Cycle with the Philadelphia Orchestra begins with a fervent but gloomy reading of the Fifth Symphony, coupled with an unexceptional one of the First.

In the later work the climaxes are thunderous, and the detail of sound—one can still marvel at Beethoven's audacious orchestration—is exceptionally clear. Nevertheless, Muti seems to miss the real depth, the real conflicts in this music.

But the critical hinge of the piece, the moments of transition between third movement and finale, is wonderfully sprung, and from there onwards the music gathers its own exhilarating momentum.

Stephen Pettitt

BRIDGE

Game pie and bore for lunch

"I'll have a portion of the special game pie and a carafe of the club claret please." Lethery, the grizzled old retainer, could hardly hide his surprise. Mr Paradine, acknowledged to be a great mathematician, was even better known for his thrift.

Horace Paradine tasted his wine with obvious pleasure. "May I join you?" The voice was unmistakable. It was Oliver Overtrump, the venerable club bore. Without being rude, there was no escape.

"Pity you missed the Annual Club Fairs, Horace. There were some very interesting bands. Take this suit, for instance."

"Playing in three no trumps, you need four tricks from that combination to

make your contract. Normally at Fairs you would play the King and finesse the Knave, but on this occasion you have had the benefit of one of Trigger-Happy Henry's doubles."

Paradine consumed another mouthful of pie. He wondered if the old boy knew the solution. "Most interesting," he said. "Tempting to play the King and Ace, hoping to catch either the doubleton 10 or the doubleton Queen." He glanced at Overtrump out of the corner of his eye. "But, curiously, the odds favour playing the suit in exactly the same way to make four tricks as five. Of the 15 possible doubletons South can hold, cashing the King and Ace succeeds in nine cases. Playing the King and finessing the Knave wins in eleven."

"Thank you, Horace. Carp

cashed the Ace and King and went down. I thought he was wrong at the time, but his partner said nothing, and Trigger-Happy Henry was too busy informing the world that his methods had produced a top score."

Paradine moved to pick up his paper, but Overtrump was too quick for him.

"This will amuse you. West plays in three no trumps. East has no entry outside his long suit. How many tricks does West make from the suit?"

"At Teams, very possibly none, because the odds favour two finesses."

"Yes, that was the result at several tables. But Grandace,

playing against Mrs Waterflow, didn't trust her knowledge of the odds, so when she finessed the Queen, Grandace followed with the Knave. The poor dear was quite put out when a subsequent finesse lost to his King. But you've heard nothing yet. Carp, sitting South, defended the same hand. He also craftily dropped the Knave under the Queen, but declarer made all seven tricks."

"Goodness me, don't tell me declarer rejected the apparently marked finesse on the next round?"

"Yes, he did, because Dogberry, Carp's partner, naively leaned across the table to take the first trick, and to Carp's undisputed fury, the inference wasn't lost on declarer."

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Princely tactics at fault

Did Napoleon play chess, and if so, how well? There exist scores of ingenious games between the French Emperor, General Bertrand and Mme de Remusat, but their authenticity is generally doubted.

Chess skill of sorts demonstrably ran in the Bonaparte family at large. Recently I came across the following fascinating snippet concerning the Emperor's nephew, Prince Antoine Bonaparte, in *The Illustrated London News* of February 7, 1857, 130 years ago to the day. The quotation is from the great English champion, Howard Staunton:

"The chess season in Paris has been brilliantly inaugurated. During the past month the well-known German player, Harwitz, has been twice engaged—once by Prince Napoleon, and then by the Count Casabianco to exhibit before an illustrious assemblage his extraordinary powers in what is called blindfold chess play. On each occasion he conducted two

games simultaneously against opponents of no mean ability and on each occasion was victorious."

White: Harwitz (playing blindfold); Black: Prince Napoleon Sicilian Defence/Bononi; Paris 1857.

An error: 2 ... cxd4 is obligatory.

A premature exchange which accelerates White's attack.

A well conceived exchange

which alleviates his cramped position.

Having defended a poor position with notable skill, Prince Napoleon now commits an obvious tactical oversight.

Exploiting the pin to seize a vital pawn.

A second tactical blunder, but the situation is already beyond repair.

What ensues is a slaughter.

Here White announced mate in two by 30 Rf7+ Kh6 31 Rxh5.

How to assess Prince Napoleon's play? Defective openings knowledge, surprising positional dexterity in the middlegame, but little or no tactical skill.

Raymond Keene

IN THE GARDEN

Camellia keeps her cool in sun or shade

Chris Roberts

Camellias are so delicately exquisite that one can understand James Gordon, one of the first growers of the common camellia in the 18th century, treating them as hot-house plants at first and inadvertently killing his early specimens.

It has taken gardeners a long time to realize that some cultivars are hardy in the south and even, with care, in colder areas. This year's freezing January has retarded blooms somewhat but most garden centres now have a good range of hardy camellias with buds beginning to unfurl.

There is a huge and delightful choice of camellia—sadly none is scented but perhaps that is asking for utter perfection in a plant. Two varieties of the common camellia, which will survive in the north are the red Grand Slam and the Elegans, rose-pink with notched petals

and anemone-like cluster of stamens. One of the nicest ways of growing them is to train them espalier-fashion up a wall. Early morning sun and cold wind cause the buds to drop, so camellias should never be put in an eastern or exposed position. But most tolerate shade well and will grow in sun provided their roots are cool and moist—though not waterlogged.

The camellias known as the Williamsii hybrids are especially hardy and they have the advantage of dead-heading themselves when the flowers fade. Most popular over several years is Donatien with its large clear pink semi-double flowers with subtly darker veining.

A long and generous succession of blooms appears from February until May (varying with weather and location) even if the first buds have been



frosted and spoilt. This variety, bred in Sussex, is recommended by nurserymen as far afield as Yorkshire, Dorset and London.

Camellias are at home on a neutral to acid soil, a problem to those of us living in chalk or limestone areas. The easiest answer for us is to treat them as pot or tub plants—for which they are ideally suited.

A good and economical pot compost is a mixture of half ericaceous compost, half moss peat with some grit and a low

release fertilizer mixed in—watering should be with rain water if possible.

If you are growing camellias in the open garden in a non-acid soil (you must dig over a fairly large area and add peat before planting), you should get sequestered iron (Sequestrene) regularly as a counter measure.

Feeding with a high potash fertilizer from late April encourages the formation of the tiny round buds in June which are next year's flowers. An annual application of leaf mould helps to keep the roots moist and give you healthy plants whose evergreen foliage is almost as beautiful as their flowers.

For an extensive camellia catalogue, send 30p in stamps to Trehan Camellias, Staplehill Road, Hamptons, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1NE.

Francesca Greenoak

WEEKEND TIPS

Order seed potatoes. For many years I have ordered from the Cambridgeshire seedsmen Marshalls because I like the little Pink Fir Apple, their speciality. But most mail order firms have dropped potatoes from their catalogues presumably because of the heavy postage. My local garden centre has 18 varieties. The advantages of buying in a shop are that you can see the quality.

Sow broad beans outside if the weather stays mild.

Sow wild and alpine strawberries and the variety Sweetheart—keep the temperatures to about 18°C (65°F) and be prepared for a rather slow germination.

Finish pruning apple and pear trees, clear weeds from the base of established trees and mulch.

Check lawn mowers are ready for use.

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Ladies day at V&A?

The contenders in the Victoria and Albert director handover stakes are off and running. Insider commentators have noted that a whole field of women are attracting much speculation.

Possible frontrunners include Anna Somers-Cocks, editor of *Apollonia* magazine, Gillian Wilson, once an assistant in the furniture department at the V&A and now a shrewd buyer for the Getty Museum at Malibu, and Tina Levey, keeper of textiles and dress.

Odds-on favourite among the women, however, seems to be Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, keeper of the National Art Library. If a woman were elected, she would be only the second to hold such a post: Dame Margaret Weston was director of the Science Museum until she resigned in 1986.

Prominent in the Cape Spring book catalogue is *Labour and the City* by Bryan Gould, the Labour spokesman on the City. But it seems unlikely that the work will ever find its way into bookshops. According to Cape, the book is now "unscheduled because of editorial difficulties". I hear that the views which Mr Gould was going to express in the book were contrary to official Labour Party policy, and some kind soul at Cape decided to save Mr Gould from shooting his political career in the foot.

Tunnel vision

Most chic venue of the week award must go to the Recorded Releasing Picture Company for their bash for the opening night of the animated nuclear holocaust film *When The Wind Blows*.



Bruce Kent and Ringo Starr. Tunnels 120 feet below Tottenham Court Road, which once housed 7,000 troops in World War Two, were filled with the great and the good, including Sir John Mills, Monsignor Bruce Kent and Ringo Starr.

Adversarial presence was provided by Lady Olga Maitland, handing out appropriate leaflets. Those present say she was on a hiding to nothing.

Camp Cannes

The British success at last year's Cannes Film Festival was their pavilion. Stationed on a vital corner of the beach, it provided a much-needed watering hole and a place where the visiting luminaries, such as Clive James, could get a clear run at the French girls.

This year, the lumberingly titled The British Film Industry in Cannes Ltd has been denied the same venue, but intends taking over the derelict Miramar Hotel on the Croisette. It plans to erect in the foreground not one, but several little pavilions, complete with Union Jacks on the centre poles.

Last year's pavilion earned the title "Un Eysore" from the locals. Possible suggestions already encountered for this year include "Le Scout Camp".

Chris Peachment

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THE WEEK AHEAD



OPERA

GARDEN PRODUCE: John Copley, the opera producer, has been associated with Covent Garden for over a quarter of a century, but the house saw little of him last year which he mostly spent working overseas. Now he is back in town staging the Royal Opera's *Norma*, which opens on Tuesday and will be Copley's fifteenth new production for the house. Margaret Price sings the title role in Bellini's opera for the first time in Britain. Sir John Pritchard is the conductor. Royal Opera House (01-240 1088) from Tuesday.



GALLERIES

A HEAD OF HIS TIME: Naum Gabo (1890-1977) left a lasting impression on British art, especially on Moore, Nicholson and Hepworth. Born in Russia, he became disillusioned with post-revolutionary art and left first for Berlin and then England, where he lived from 1935 to 1946. By using transparent models such as plastic and Perspex, Gabo hoped to make spectators feel they were inside his sculptures. An exhibition of more than 100 rarely seen works is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313), from Wednesday.



FILMS

BLIND DATE: Isabelle Huppert, prolific and wayward, gives a powerful performance in *Cactus* (PG), as a French visitor to Australia half-blinded in a car accident. A love affair follows with a shy cactus grower, blind since birth, who is played by Robert Menzies, grandson of the former Prime Minister. The director, Paul Cox (who was born in the Netherlands) was already Australia's most adventurous filmmaker but he sets himself new standards in this bizarre romance. Renior (01-837 8402), from Friday.



BOOKS

LOST NOVEL: Ernest Hemingway shot himself in July 1961, leaving behind a novel on which he had worked for 15 years. *The Garden of Eden* is about a young American writer and his wife on a honeymoon in the Mediterranean who are both attracted to the same woman. For years Hemingway's widow and American publisher insisted that the book was not worth publishing. But *The Garden of Eden* eventually appeared in America last May and it is published in Britain on Thursday (Hamish Hamilton, £9.95).



ROCK

COMING UP ROSAS: Cesar Rosas of Los Lobos will be trading guitar riffs as if by telepathy with his partner David Hidalgo when the Los Angeles quintet bring their unique combination of traditional Hispano/Mexican folk and blistering rock-hardened R & B to London tomorrow. Their extraordinary rapport on stage is the legacy of a decade spent playing night in clubs and bars before their 1984 album *How Will The Wolf Survive?* brought wider acclaim. The Astoria, London WC2 (01-434 0403), tomorrow.



THEATRE

CRYING WOOLF: Billie Whitelaw first made her name in television drama in the early 1960s and went on to become a favourite actress of the playwright Samuel Beckett. She now tackles one of the most demanding parts in the modern repertoire, *Martha* in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Patrick Stewart co-stars in the story of a warring American professor and his wife who inflict their emotional agonies on two young guests. David Thacker directs. Young Vic, Waterloo SE1 (01-928 6363), from Thursday.

CONCERTS

BERG'S BEETHOVEN: The Alban Berg Quartet performs Beethoven's great Quartet Op 131, Shostakovich's Quartet No 7 and an early Schubert Quartet, D 87. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141), Today, 7.30pm.

ALL SCHUBERT: A rich afternoon of Schubert is provided by the Amadeus Quartet, playing the D 804 "Death and the Maiden" and the Quintet D 955 in which they are joined by Robert Cohen (cello). Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191), Tomorrow, 3.15pm.

STRAVINSKY CONTINUES: "Stravinsky Plus" reaches 1913, the year he composed *Le Sacre du Printemps* and Debussy wrote *Images*. The London Symphony Orchestra performs both these works under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795), Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

OGDON'S FIFTIETH: John Ogdon celebrates his 50th birthday by soloing in his own Piano Concerto and in Rachmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody. The London Philharmonic Orchestra under John Lubbock plays Wagner's *Meistersinger* Overture and Brahms's *Haydn Variations*. Festival Hall, Mon, 7.30pm.

ALL MOZART: The Chamber Orchestra of London is conducted by Ivor Bolton in Mozart's Symphonies K 385 "Haffner" and K 503 "Prague". Jean-Louis Steuerman solos in Piano Concerto K 487; Michael Thompson solos in Horn Concerto K 495. Barbican Centre, Mon, 7.45pm.

DVORAK/NIELSEN: Andrew Davis conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Dvorak's Slavonic Dances Nos 1-3 and Nielsen's Symphony No 3 "Espansiva". Lynn Harrell solos in Dvorak's Cello concerto. Festival Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

HICKOX/LSO: The LSO performs Holst's *The Planets* and items from Prokofiev's *Love of Three Oranges* music. Lorraine McAslin solos in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Richard Hickox conducts. Barbican Centre, Tues, 7.45pm.

THOMSON/LPO: Vaughan Williams's *The Wasps* Overture and Elgar's Symphony No 1 are played by the LPO under Bryden Thomson. In between David Nolan solos in Walton's Violin Concerto. Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1900-1950: Many different facets of documentary photography reflect women's concerns from domestic family life through to life in the streets in a Tyneside mining village. One of the most exciting shows at this gallery for many months, throwing up hitherto unknown names which should now receive attention. The Photographers Gallery, 5 and 6 Great Newport Street, London WC1 (01-631 1772).

TAKING THE STAGE: 21 years of life on the London stage by John Haynes, one of the country's finest contemporary theatre photographers. National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath (0225 62841).

FILMS ON TV

CHOOSE ME (1984): Genevieve Bujold and Keith Carradine in Alan Rudolph's stylish re-working of *La Floride*. BBC2, today, 9.55-11.40pm.

THE WALL (1983): Yilmaz Guney's uncompromising view of life in a Turkish prison. Channel 4, today, 11.15pm-1.25am.

LE BEAU MARIAGE (1981): Eric Rohmer's cool, elegant tale of romance between a French student (Beatrice Romand) and a young lawyer. BBC2, today, 11.40pm-1.25am.

SUSPICION (1942): Hitchcock thriller with Joan Fontaine suspecting that husband Cary Grant is out to kill her. BBC1, tomorrow, 3-4.35pm.



ALAN LADD (above) and Veronica Lake were cinematic stars of the 1940s. They appeared together in only four films, but each was their pulling power that it seemed more like a dozen. One of their best vehicles was the 1946 thriller *The Blue Dahlia*, with an original screenplay by Raymond Chandler about a war veteran suspected of murdering his unfaithful wife. Channel 4, Fri, 10.30pm-12.20am.

ROCK

MURRAHI A Georgia trio who play scrappy, tuneful pop-rock, and will soon take over the world if we are to believe the music press. Tonight, Leadmill, Sheffield (0742 754500); Mon, York University (0804 412328); Tues, Leeds University (0532 439071); Wed, Huddersfield Polytechnic (0484 538156); Thurs, Liverpool University (051 709 6022); Fri, Manchester University (061 273 5111).

CHINA CRISIS: "Best Kept Secret" is in the charts with a bullet: glum-rock. Tonight Sands Centre, Carlisle (0228 25222); tomorrow, Pavilion, Glasgow (041 332 1846); Tues, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 688 2019); Wed, Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321); Thurs, Redcar Bowl (0642 480636); Fri, Leeds University (0532 439071).

MANTRONIX: Rescheduled dates for the hip hop duo. Tomorrow, Rock City Nottingham (0602 412544); Mon, Hacienda, Manchester (061 236 5051); Tues, Town and Country, London NW5 (01-267 3334); Wed, Astoria, London WC2 (01-434 0403).

WANG CHUNG: The British duo of "Dance Hall Days" fame, who recently enjoyed a Top Five hit in America with *Everybody Have Fun Tonight*. Tomorrow, Tropicans, Peterborough (0733 40604); Tues and Wed, Marquee, London W1 (01-437 6603).

LUTHER VANDROSS: The soul balladeer is back for a second run finishing, appropriately, on Valentine's Day. Four nights, from Wed, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081).

JAZZ

DAVE HOLLAND: Taking his cues from the early-60s innovations of Charles Mingus and Ornette Coleman, Holland has organized a remarkably enjoyable quintet featuring two young stars: the altoist Steve Coleman and the drummer Marvin Smith. Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Friar Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

JAN GARSAREK: The popular Norwegian saxophonist brings a unique flavour to jazz with a quartet including the virtuoso bassist Eberhard Weber. Tonight, Gardner Centre, Brighton (0723 685861); tomorrow, Haymarket, Leicester (0533 536757); Tues, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell (0344 484123); Wed, Octagon, Sheffield (0742 24076 x218); Thurs, Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool (051 709 5247); Fri, RNCM, Manchester (061 273 4504).

HARRY EDISON: Sinatra's favourite trumpeter plays an early set (6.30pm) with Stan Tracey's trio and some later ones (starting 9.30) with Bill Le Sage. Thurs, Pizzazz Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-439 8722).

THEATRE

OPENINGS

BREAKING THE FRAME: Kathryn Pogson directs a new play about painters Nine Hammett and Therese Lessore and their relationship with Walter Sickert. Eccestra, Oxford Arms, Camden High Street (01-622 6409). Preview Mon and Tues, Opens Wed.

THE HAMLET OF STEPNEY GREEN: First professional London production since its debut in the 1950s for the "sad comedy" with music, by Bernard Kops, set in the London Jewish community. Directed by James Marcus. New End Theatre, (01-794 0022). Opens Mon.

MORE LIGHT: Snio Wilson's fantasy about 16th-century philosopher, physicist, playwright and condemned heretic Giordano Bruno. Bush (01-743 3388). From Wed.

THIS STORY OF YOURS: David Suchet as a policeman accused of killing a suspect during interrogation, in John Hopkins's 1968 drama, which was filmed as *The Offence* with Sean Connery. Jack Gold directs. James Hazeldine, Bryan Pringle, Richard Cubison, Jane Wood. Hampstead (01-722 9301). Preview today, Mon, Tues. Opens Wed.

OUT OF TOWN

BELFAST: Mumbo Jumbo: Irish premier of an award-winning play by Robin Gielgord, set in a Belfast public school. First produced at the Royal Exchange, Manchester. Lyric Players (0232 860081). Until Feb 21.

LEEDS: Camille: Pam Gems's play based on the Dumas story, with Diana Katta in the title role; directed by Peter Watson. Playhouse (0532 442111). Opens Thurs.

PRINCIPAL SCRIPTORAE: Richard Nelson's powerful account of two writers imprisoned in Central America and what became of them. Superb closing scene. Barbican (01-628 8795).

SELECTED

TWELFTH NIGHT: Radiant, richly inventive production by the touring Cheek by Jowl company. Alternates weekly with *The Cid*, also excellent. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230).

THE BOX SHOW: A number of ingenious artists and craftsmen, including Howard Raybould and Jim Partridge, have contributed artworks using a box format.

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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1508.9 (+22.7)
FT-SE 100
1898.4 (+32.3)Bargains
55083 (38400)USM (Datastream)
142.89 (+0.05)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5090 (-0.0090)W German mark
2.7992 (+0.0084)Trade-weighted
68.8 (same)ConsGold
inspector
dropped

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday dropped one of the two inspectors looking into suspicious dealings in the shares of Consolidated Gold Fields because of a conflict of interest involving his firm.

The inspector, Mr George Staple, of the solicitors Clifford-Turner, is to be replaced by Mr RG Youard, of the law firm Slaughter and May.

The DTI said the change came at Mr Staple's request "due to a conflict of interest which arose after the inspection had begun." Mr Staple made clear that the clash was due to his firm, and did not involve personal interests.

The conflict of interest is understood to involve a peripheral involvement of Clifford-Turner in Gold Fields of South Africa, in which ConsGold has a 48 per cent interest.

Workers bid
for bus firm

The first all-employee, equal-ownership bid to buy out a subsidiary of the National Bus Company is being made this weekend.

About 180 of the 212 staff at the Provincial Bus Company, which operates at Fareham and Gosport, near Portsmouth, have pledged £150,000 - £750 each - and extra financing is to come from Unity Trust. A decision is expected on Monday.

Bank chief



Mr Egil Gade Grove (above) has been appointed chairman of Scandinavian Bank Group. He has been a non-executive director since March 1983 and is managing director and chief executive of Bergen Bank in Norway. He succeeds Mr Carl Olsson.

Derwent buy

Derwent Valley Holdings has conditionally agreed to buy Colebrook Estates and Wilmar Estates, a company in which Colebrook has a 30.4 per cent interest, for £6 million. A further payment of £200,000 is expected, based on the balance sheet.

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£260 million offer "unwelcome"

RHM surprise
bid for Avana

By Ray Heath

Ranks Hovis McDougall yesterday snapped up a 20.3 per cent stake in the Avana food group and launched a full-scale bid for the company that looks certain to turn into an acrimonious battle.

The offer, which values Avana at about £260 million, was quickly rebuffed by Dr John Randall, the company's chairman, who described it as unwelcome.

Dr Randall also attacked Northern Foods, which sold the springboard holding to RHM for £49.7 million, and accused the dairy and meat group of denying him the opportunity of placing the shares among a range of investors.

Dr Randall promptly resigned from the board of Northern Foods, whose chairman, Mr Charles Haskins, also resigned from Avana.

The announcement of the bid and sale of Northern Foods' stake came as almost a complete surprise to the stock market. Avana shares soared 20p to an all-time high of 687p.

RHM is offering shares with a cash alternative of 696p a share. The terms of the all-share offer are 12 RHM shares for every five Avana. At last night's closing price for RHM of 308p, down 12p, this values each Avana share at 739p.

If holders of more than 10 million shares accept the money, Morgan Grenfell, RHM's merchant bank, will offer those accepting the share alternative 20p for a limit of 42,779,000 shares. This will limit RHM's cash payment to about £70 million.

If the bid is accepted, Avana shareholders would be entitled to keep the 5.25p interim dividend declared in November.

Both companies have bailed as a core interest. RHM is well known for its Mother's Pride, Hovis, and Nibble

brands and Mr Kipling cakes, but most of Avana's production is marketed under the own-label lines of supermarkets. Its customers include Marks and Spencer, J Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose.

Other brand names in RHM's extensive food portfolio are Bisto, Engen, Paxo, Saxa, Atona, Sharwood's and McDougalls.

Avana's non-baking interests include breakfast cereals, which are also marketed under own-brand labels; Robertson foods and Viota mixes; Unican home brewing kits and dried fruits. Both companies have interests in chocolate products and coffee.

Dr Randall yesterday vowed to fight the bid, which he said was too low and did not recognize the steps taken to improve the company's recent patchy profits.

Once one of the glamour stocks of the sector, Avana has disappointed investors with its recent performance. Over the past three years, profits have languished, Robertson jams have been squeezed by overcapacity in the market, price cutting, and consumer resistance.

Viota's breakfast foods were hurt by the withdrawal of M&S from the sector and the loss of the Co-operative chain

as a customer. The big chains have also been putting pressure on prices.

Until RHM's bid, Avana shares underperformed the stock market for a long time, and its half-year profit of £40 million, up £3.7 million, was regarded as under-par by analysts.

The shares have been close to the 12-month low of 458p, and recent recommendations have suggested a switch.

Dr Randall argued that the company had now been turned around once more. "We are trading as we used to trade in the old days," he said.

The company is about to unveil a £28 million flour confectionery plant in Wales, expected to provide about 800 jobs. And a £4 million cake plant, opened in December, to supply cakes to M&S, is beating all forecasts, Dr Randall said.

He promised that his defence would contain forecasts to prove that the RHM bid undervalues the company as it is trading now.

Explaining the logic of the bid, Mr Stanley Metcalfe, RHM managing director, said: "We do similar things, but do them differently. They are very much customer oriented, and we are very much a branded business."

The reaction to the bid by two big RHM shareholders in Australia will now be closely watched. Goodman Fielder of Australia has 14.3 per cent of the shares, and Fletcher Challenge of New Zealand owns 4.9 per cent.

These companies are believed to be acting together, and while Goodman Fielder directors have assured RHM they are only holding their shares as an investment, it has been widely speculated that the company is planning a bid. RHM's move may flush out its real intentions, City analysts suggested.



Metcalfe: "We do similar things... but differently"

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H&WT falls to Murdoch

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of News Corporation, has finally won the battle for the Herald and Weekly Times, Australia's largest media group.

Victory came with the sale of the group's television and radio assets to John Fairfax, the Sydney-based media group, and Mr Kerry Stokes, the Perth business man.

At a marathon meeting yesterday, the H&WT board agreed to the sale of the Melbourne television station HSV 7 to Fairfax for Aus\$320 million (£139 million).

This is \$60 million more than the price News Ltd, the Australian subsidiary of News Corporation, and beneficial owner of 70 per cent of H&WT shares, agreed with Mr Robert Holmes à Court, another Perth entrepreneur.

As part of the agreement struck last night, Fairfax agreed to drop its Aus\$2.5 billion bid for H&WT and all court proceedings against parties involved in the takeover

struggle, as well as any actions before the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal. News Ltd bid Aus\$2.5 billion.

Although Mr Holmes à Court was not included in the division of the broadcast assets, he is believed to be satisfied with the certainty of gaining West Australian Newspapers Ltd, an H&WT subsidiary.

News Ltd will become Australia's biggest publisher of capital-city newspapers. It will add to its considerable stable H&WT's main newspapers - *The Herald* and *The Sun* - *The Pictorial* (Melbourne); *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane); and *The Advertiser* (Adelaide). It also will gain numerous magazines, suburban newspapers and printing and distribution centres.

An official announcement of the deal was delayed because Fairfax is believed to have insisted on full documentation of the television stations. It wants to be able to present the completed trans-

actions to the ABT when it reconvenes on Monday.

Mr Murdoch also revealed that the Channel 10 stations in Melbourne and Sydney, whose licences are held by a company not controlled by Mr Murdoch, might be sold.

"I cannot be an American citizen and actually control the television stations, so we think it may be better to sell out of TV and concentrate on print," Mr Murdoch said. A sale announcement is expected on Monday.

The Brisbane Stock Exchange said Queensland Press, an H&WT associate, had inadvertently breached a listing requirement but waived any action.

The ABT asked H&WT, Queensland Press and Advertiser Newspapers, another H&WT associate, to inform the tribunal of the results of its sales considerations on Monday morning.

The tribunal also wants to hear by 5pm that day what action other parties involved

in the tribunal's inquiry into possible foreign ownership of H&WT, intended to take. These parties include News Ltd, Fairfax, the Australian Journalists' Association (AJA) and Actors' Equity (AE).

The ABT's public inquiry into the ownership status of the H&WT group was adjourned again yesterday until Tuesday.

The inquiry was called because of the likely acquisition of part of H&WT by companies associated with News Ltd. Mr Murdoch is not eligible to control an Australian broadcasting licence.

Although News Ltd has restructured its organization so that Mr Murdoch has no control over any licences, that arrangement is being challenged by the AJA and AE. Both are demanding a full inquiry.

Now that H&WT-associated broadcasters are sold, the question of foreign ownership is unlikely to arise.

The British
ways Share
portunity

OFFER FOR SALE

List closed



Moment of triumph: Lord King (left) and Hill Samuel's David Bucks as the list closed

Late rush brings success
in Airways flotation

Thanks to a last-minute rush by investors, the great British Airways sale closed yesterday heavily oversubscribed.

Hill Samuel, banker to the issue, could give no details but there was speculation that the shares offered to the public may have been anything up to 10 times oversubscribed. Some sources suggested that there may have been as many as a million applications for shares.

The runaway success of the operation means that institutional investors will have their allocation of shares reduced by a clawback provision which comes into operation if the issue to private holders is three times subscribed.

Mr David Bucks, Hill Samuel's director in charge of

the sale, said: "All I can say is that the issue will have been oversubscribed and I would guess the clawback will have been triggered."

Last night, it was not certain whether the level of applications was sufficiently large to give rise to a ballot for shares. This is likely to take place if applications are made in excess of 750,000.

Mr Bucks said Hill Samuel had succeeded in attracting the type of investors it wanted - those who had invested in British Telecom, TSB and British Gas.

British Airways shares now look set for a substantial premium in first dealings on Wednesday if the indications given by the unofficial "grey market" are any guide. Cleve-

land Securities, the licensed dealer which is making a forward market for institutional investors, quoted BA shares at around 90p last night, compared with the 65p partly-paid price at which they were sold to the public. The second instalment of 65p is due next August.

A delighted British Airways spokesman put the success of the flotation down to "positive City comment during the past few days." In the early days of the launch campaign, BA's chairman, Lord King, was concerned that the health warning given by the Government that the shares were better suited to people who were already shareholders than to first-time buyers might have a strong negative effect.

Ramsden
lifts stake
in Marler

Mr Terry Ramsden, yesterday increased his holding in the Marler Estates property group to 29.9 per cent after a placing of 42 per cent of the company's shares by its major shareholder, Blade Investments.

Blade in fact represents clients of Lazard Brothers who have realized a tidy profit on the placing. The shares were placed at £8.20 each compared with the 25p paid by Blade in 1978 and the £7.75 price of Marler's shares in the market immediately before yesterday's announcement. The shares closed 5p down at £7.70p.

The placing also increases the holding of Mr Robert Noonan, a director of the company, from less than 1 per cent.

NZ adviser

New Zealand has appointed the merchant bank J Henry Schroder Wagg to advise it on reorganizing national assets, including forestry, farming and property management, into state-owned commercial corporations.

Watchdog condemns firms' line on sales

Insurance plan attacked

By Peter Gardland

The Consumers' Association says it is deeply dissatisfied with proposals which have been put forward to the Government by insurance companies.

The proposals on selling general insurance have been made to the Consumer Affairs Minister Mr Michael Howard.

According to Mr Dave Watts, editor of the CA's *Which?* publication, the proposals should not go ahead on the basis of what has been proposed. He is calling for an entirely fresh approach.

The proposals, which have been made through the trade body, the Association of British Insurers, recommend that when a member of the public takes out a general insurance contract, such as car or house-

hold contents cover, the sales intermediary should disclose whether he is offering fairly independent advice or whether he is the representative of a small number of companies which are responsible for his conduct.

The ABI has also told the Mr Howard that publicly he is given to the new system and that monitoring of it effectively will include consumer representation.

The new proposals follow recommendations made by the ABI last June and subsequent liaison with organizations such as the Consumers' Association and the Law Society.

No meetings were held with the British Insurance Brokers' Association which, according to the ABI, "refused to meet us

unless we agreed to certain pre-conditions which were unacceptable."

The Consumers' Association remains unhappy with a number of details of the recommendation.

In particular, the CA wants non-independent intermediaries to represent only one company. This is the structure that will operate for life assurance business under the Financial Services Act.

The CA also wants provision for disclosure of commission received by the intermediary as well as a system whereby consumers will be informed in writing of the courses of action open to them to redress grievances.

The association intends to reinforce its views to Mr Howard.

Latest two year
statistics.

Trust	Percentage increase in value	Position in sector
European	+152.5%	2nd
Worldwide Recovery	+92.0%	3rd
International	+79.5%	7th
Income & Growth	+72.5%	4th
Practical	+63.7%	2nd
U.K.	+62.1%	41st
Pacific	+61.6%	14th
High Income	+50.8%	9th
Japan	+50.7%	32nd
American	+15.3%	22nd

SOURCE: PLANNED SAVINGS OFFER TO BID NET INCOME REINVESTED 1.2%

The performance of our European Fund is also consistent over the shorter term, up 47.4% over the last year and 23.7% over the last six months.

A major factor in this performance is active management, moving large proportions of the fund into growing markets and knowing when to sell.

For further details call 01-489 1078 or write to Oppenheimer, 66 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AE.



A member company of the Mercantile House Group.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2197.69 (-3.80)
Dow Jones	1966.83 (-128.25)
Nikkei Dow	2673.57 (+21.49)
Hong Kong	262.5 (+4.5)
Amsterdam Gen	1539.2 (-3.8)
Sydney AO	1783.3 (+55.7)
Frankfurt	4007.28 (-9.47)
Commerzbank	541.90 (-0.7)
Paris CAC	541.90 (-0.7)
Zurich S&K Gen	n/a
London FT A	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT B	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT C	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT D	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT E	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT F	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT G	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT H	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT I	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT J	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT K	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT L	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT M	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT N	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT O	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT P	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT Q	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT R	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT S	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT T	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT U	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT V	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT W	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT X	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT Y	1898.4 (+32.3)
FT Z	1898.4 (+32.3)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	11%
3-month Interbank	10.75-10.8%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.88-5.87%
30-year bonds	100%-100.5%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.5090	\$ £1.5090
£ DM 1.6555	DM £1.6555
£ Sfr 1.5650	Sfr £1.5650
£ FF 16.1805	FF £16.1805
£ Yen 154.55	Yen £154.55
£ Index 68.8	Index £68.8
£ SDR 1.5090	SDR £1.5090

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
WCRS	835p (+22p)
Coca Cola	1004p (+28p)

STOCK MARKET

£4bn added to share prices as investors keep up pressure

By Michael Clark

Dealers were again rewriting the record book last night as the curtain came down on one of the strongest trading sessions in living memory.

About £4 billion was added to the value of share prices as investors kept up their relentless pressure buoyed by the prospect of tax cuts in the forthcoming Budget and growing optimism about the British economy.

This was reflected in the FT Index of top 30 shares, which continued to improve throughout the day, eventually passing the 1,500 level for the first time ever. It eventually closed 22.7 up at a record 1,508.9 — a rise of 83.0 (5.82 per cent) on the account. The broader-based FT-SE 100 also closed 33.3 up at 1,898.4 and looks poised to go past the important 1,900 level at the start of the new account next week.

The early mood was set by another firm overnight performance on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average hit another new peak and news of Ranks Hovis McDougall's £260 million bid for its rival, Avana.

The hard-pressed market-makers, already short of stock, were again forced to mark prices sharply higher in order to deter the big fund managers, but still they kept coming with double-figure gains among blue chips commonplace. Sentiment was also boosted by whispers that the political opinion polls over the weekend will show the Conservatives with a commanding lead over Labour.

Dealers reported heavy turnover, particularly among the consumer stocks like stores, breweries and foods.

But profit-taking left ICI 10p down at £13.75 after hitting new heights earlier this week following an upgrading of profit estimates by Greenwell Montagu, the broker.

Government securities sported gains of up to 2½ at the longer end of the market as yields continue to dip below the 10 per cent level. The market remained in confident mood throughout the session despite the Government's offer of £800 million of Treasury Loan 9 per cent 2008 at £94.50. Investors are being asked to pay £25 down, with the balance due on April 6.

Over on the grey market, Cleveland Securities, the licensed dealer, raised the price of British Airways, the latest privatization issue, 5p to 90p and claimed the shares are edging higher all the time ahead of the start of official dealings next Wednesday.

This followed reports that traffic jams had built up in Threadneedle Street as last-minute investors for the shares queued up to lodge their application forms.

In electricals, Ferranti, which had been a steady performer, is flying up to Edinburgh next week to meet a number of Scottish fund managers. It is hoped they will have some good news.

There were signs that the brewery sector has been left behind in recent weeks. Prices

of BAT Industries, the tobacco giant, struggled of a

downgrading by Barclays de Zoete Wedd with a rise of

13p to 510p yesterday.

Rival House of Commons has also

truncated its estimate, but still rates the shares a buy

over the medium term.

Mr John Clarke, analyst with

Capel Cure, has high hopes for the group. He

calculates it has spent more

than £160 million on expanding

its database over the past

couple of years, excluding

acquisitions like Instinet.

This has now started to filter

through to profits which

should show an increase

from £93.6 million to £130

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"They are likely to be

screeching on the brakes to

limit the rise to £130 million,"

says Mr Clarke.

Once again Reuters is

expected to enjoy another wind-

fall from currency move-

ments, including the recent

28 per cent hike and Barick

relied strongly yesterday,

helped by the appearance of a

few bargain hunters. Allied

Lyons rose 8p to 353p. Bass

1p to 838p. Whitbread 'A' 10p

to a new high of 300p, while

the bid favourite Vaux Group

ran into renewed support with

a 3p rise to 363p.

Bid hopes lifted Pear Assurance

10p to 583p. The group's

name has been linked to TSB

in the past. Consolidated Gold

Fields, the mining finance

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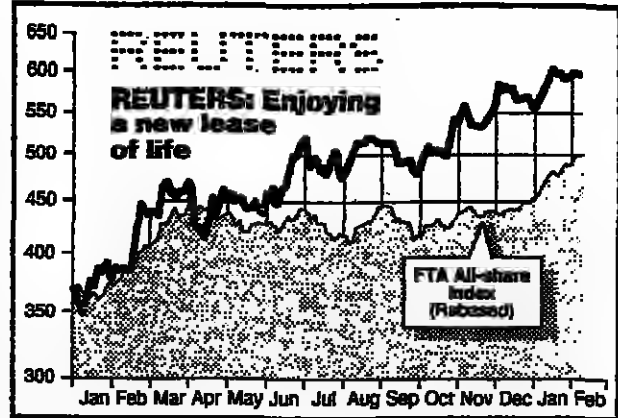
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Resources another 6 per cent holding. Figures are due out

Shares of Reuters 'B', the

international news agency and

financial information group,

hit a record high with a rise of

17p to 615p, after 620p,

following publication of a

bullish review of the company

by Capel Cure-Myers, the

broker, ahead of preliminary

results on Wednesday.

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to 449p following a mention in this column yesterday. Elsewhere in the food sector, there were sizeable gains in Unigate, 12p to 375p and United Biscuits, 16p to 286p. Both have been tipped as possible bid targets in the past.

The big clearing banks extended their recent strong run ahead of the dividend season which starts soon. James Capel, the broker, was said to have been a big buyer of the shares, in particular National Westminster Bank, up 24p at a new peak of 616p. Barclays Bank was also a firm market, 21p dearer at 560p. Lloyds Bank, 14p to 491p, and Midland Bank, 21p to 615p.

Standard Chartered also recovered some of the lost ground stemming from fears about a possible inquiry into

weakness of sterling against its

big European rivals, which

should amount to about 33

per cent of the total contribu-

tion.

Mr Clarke remains a big fan

of Reuters, saying: "It's one of

a handful of world-beaters the

UK has."

He reckons the shares are a

"buy" up to the 650p level and

is looking for pretax profits of

£168 million for this year.

The shares have certainly

proved a lucrative investment

for most of the big Fleet Street

publishers. Associated News-

papers, publisher of the Daily

Mail, Mail on Sunday and

The London Evening Stand-

ard, and News International

are now two of the biggest

outside shareholders.

News International jumped

50p to £22.25 following the

decision of Sogat, the biggest

print union, to withdraw from

the Wapping dispute and the

news that News Corp had won

the battle for control of The

Herald and Weekly Times Ltd

group.

Meanwhile, Portsmouth

and Sunderland News re-

sponded to a 68 per cent

increase in pretax profits with

a rise of 14p to 19p.

Shares of WCRS Group, the

advertising agency, leapt 35p

to 635p on renewed support.

There has been talk that the

group is putting the finishing

touches to a big European

acquisition, worth more than

£10 million.

Avana, the food manufac-

turing group whose customers

include Marks and Spencer,

lost 20p to 687p after the

unwanted bid approach from

its rival, Ranks Hovis

McDougall. RHM is offering

12 new shares for every five

Avana shares. The deal values

Avana at £260 million. RHM

made a strong start by acquir-

ing Northern Foods's 20.3

per cent stake in Avana for

£49.3 million. Northern Foods

responded to the sale with a

rise of 21p to 311p.

Tesco, the high street food

retailer, enjoyed a rise of 13p

to 449p following a mention in

this column yesterday. Else-

where in the food sector, there

were sizeable gains in Unigate,

12p to 375p and United

Biscuits, 16p to 286p. Both

have been tipped as possible

bid targets in the past.

The big clearing banks

extended their recent strong

run ahead of the dividend

season which starts soon.

James Capel, the broker, was

said to have been a big buyer

of the shares, in particular

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

A great stockbroker leaves the scene

One of the ablest, most successful and most influential stockbrokers of our time died yesterday morning. Philip Greenwell, who was 61, finally succumbed to the scourge of cancer which he had fought with the will not to be beaten that was a formidable part of his nature. When, late last year, the awful certainty of his illness was known, a friend who knew him well remarked with admiration and affection: "He'll be all right; he's a tough bastard."

Philip Greenwell was a Wykemist and during the 1939-45 war a Coldstream Guardsman. After the war, he joined the family stockbroking firm, W Greenwell & Co, and in 1953 became a member of the London Stock Exchange. Greenwell's last golden period had been between 1910 and 1920 when the firm was well known for its handling of overseas business. It had then settled into a comfortable and unremarkable existence. "Pip", as Philip was invariably known, was in the words of a close colleague for many years, "to dig up a small family firm and bring it into the second half of the twentieth century."

His influence became unmistakable in the late 1950s when he became senior partner. He was not elected to be head of the firm, which previously had joint senior partners, the formidable Bob (later Lord) Renwick and Pip's father, Graham, now in his early nineties. He simply assumed the office because he did not like the direction in which the firm was heading. He remained senior partner until 1980 when in tragic circumstances he found he no longer had the support of the majority of his partners. It was a painful time.

Richard Lawson, who with Gordon Pepper became joint senior partners after his departure, said yesterday that "a great deal of the credit for the building the reputation of Greenwells in the 1960s and 1970s belongs to him. He had great foresight, and he brought in brains and ability from outside."

This talent for picking good men took the firm to the forefront of the gilt-edged market and, although this was rarely recognized, to a leading position in the equity market. In the remaking of Greenwells, he was ably assisted by Jack Tremlett, who had left Grieson Grant in 1957-58, Charles Frappell and the man who became almost synonymous with the gilt-edged market because of his profound influence, Gordon Pepper. From well down the field, Greenwells became one of the first six stockbroking firms in London. Among senior partners, a breed well known in the City but little known outside, "Pip" had a special place, for his achievements, his practical good sense, and his shrewdness.

As a man, he had enormous charm. He was kind and generous. He also had more than a touch of arrogance and a belief in the rightness of what he was doing even if he had to go to extraordinary

lengths to "prove" to others he was right. If he worked hard, he also played hard, exhibiting the same determination to win on the golf course and at the snooker table as he did in stockbroking. When he went to the Test to fish you felt sorry for the fish. It was always marvellous to be in his company.

He has been missed in the City, where his scrupulous honesty and integrity would have set standards in a time of rapid change and dissolving Chinese Walls. He will always be missed by those privileged to have known him.

Gilts change heart

The Bank of England managed to douse some of the wilder spirits in the gilt market yesterday afternoon with its announcement of a new £800 million tap. But gilts, having broken decisively below the 10 per cent yield level, ended the week in a state of mild euphoria.

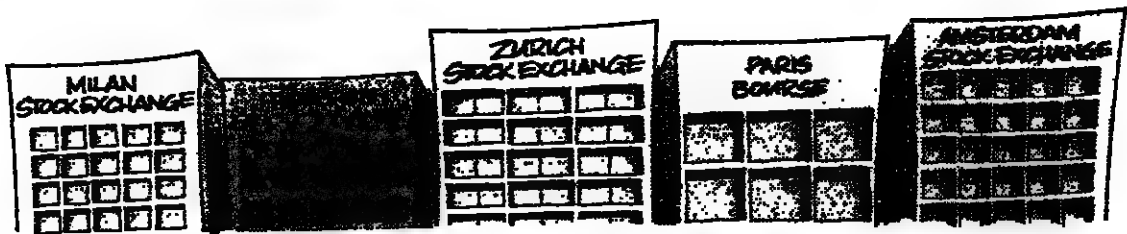
After a lethargic interlude, the change of heart for the gilts market came suddenly. The turnaround for the dollar took pressure off sterling and made the US quarterly refunding programme a much more viable proposition.

As it turned out, the US bond auctions went better than expected. And with about 40 per cent of the auction taken up by Japanese buyers, the same as in November, the sale was neither deserted by the Japanese nor excessively reliant upon them.

This favourable influence from the other side of the Atlantic fitted happily into a sharply improving picture at home. Love it or hate it, the narrow money measure M0 was a potential embarrassment for the Chancellor. As it is, M0 appears to have fallen by up to 1 per cent last month, putting a Budget base rate cut back into the frame.

This and the fir

For '87, Europe. For Europe, NM Schroders.



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There is an unusual level of agreement among fund managers that Europe offers potentially the most attractive investment prospects for 1987.

As the investors will bear in mind that "Europe" is not one, but a number of stockmarkets, each offering its own opportunities, each requiring its own specialist knowledge.

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NM Schroder European Fund

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The result has been strong and consistent growth over more than five years - and well justified prospects that this trend should continue into the future.

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The Fund, an authorised unit trust, has access to all the markets of Europe and may spread, or concentrate its portfolio as market intelligence dictates.

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Simply complete the coupon below and return it with your cheque (£500 minimum) or telephone our dealers on 0705 827733. Units will be allocated to you at the price ruling on receipt of your application.

(On 3rd February 1987 the offer price of Income Units was 138.5p with an estimated gross yield of 0.91% p.a., Accumulation Units 142.9p).

Remember that the price of units and any income from them may go down as well as up.

*Source: Financial Services, offer to bid, income reinvested to 1st January 1987

Schroder European Fund

General Information
The NM Schroders European Fund is a unit trust established under the provisions of the Unit Trusts Act 1962. It is authorised by the Financial Services Commission to offer units to the public. The fund is managed by NM Schroder European Fund Ltd, which is a subsidiary of NM Schroder Group Ltd. The fund's objective is to provide capital growth and income by investing in European equities and bonds. The fund is open to all investors and its units are available in both sterling and US dollars.

Units are available in two classes: Income Units and Accumulation Units. Income Units are suitable for investors who want a regular income, while Accumulation Units are suitable for investors who want capital growth. The fund's performance is measured against the FTSE 100 index. The fund has a long track record of success, with a 5-year return of 360.4%.

Schroders

UNIT TRUSTS - LIFE ASSURANCE - PENSIONS - ASSET MANAGEMENT

Edited by Peter Gartland FAMILY MONEY/1

Service with a new look

COMMISSIONS

Commission rates that can be paid to brokers and other financial intermediaries who sell life insurance, pensions and unit trust products were published this week. They could have a big effect on the quality of advice given to the public on financial matters.

The proposals come from the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (LAUTRO), which is likely to have responsibility for the marketing of financial products to the public under the Financial Services Act.

The most significant proposal is to bring commission rates on single-premium insurance bonds and unit trusts much more into line with each other. At present most insurance companies pay intermediaries commission of 5.2 per cent of a single premium. Some companies pay more. However, unit trust commission on lump sum investments is only 3 per cent of the purchase money.

This differential has led to criticism that intermediaries are biased in favour of selling single-premium bonds to clients even when a unit trust would be in the client's best interests.

LAUTRO has responded to

this criticism by proposing that commission on single-premium bonds will be reduced to 3 per cent of the first year and 0.5 per cent of the value of the fund (or possibly 0.5 per cent of the single premium) in subsequent years. However, there is to be a transitional period and the new arrangements will not come into operation fully until 1991.

Tony Smith, chief executive of the Unit Trust Association, which has been pressing for just such a change, expressed delight at the move, but says he would have been more pleased if it could have been implemented immediately.

LAUTRO also confirmed its commission proposals on annual-premium life insurance and personal pensions contracts. These proposals provide for a maximum commission of 25 per cent of every premium for an initial period (which is based on the premium payment term), plus a 2.5 per cent annual renewal commission.

Brian Wright, of LAUTRO, called the new proposals a great benefit for consumers, but the Consumers Association said it was disappointed with some of the details.

LAUTRO's plan is that the new commission scales should start to take effect from Janu-



Brian Wright: 'a benefit'

ary 1, 1988 "or, if possible, slightly later", and in the meantime they have to be given clearance by the Office of Fair Trading.

In looking at this whole matter the key point the OFT should keep in mind is whether the basic structure whereby commission is paid to intermediaries by insurance companies and unit trust groups remains appropriate in the new financial services climate of "best advice".

The subject arises because, although LAUTRO has gone a long way towards creating a level playing field for the life assurance, pensions and unit trust products that fall within its jurisdiction, two nagging points remain.

The first is that there still

exist life companies which do not pay commission to intermediaries. They, therefore, get very little business from intermediaries even though some of these life companies offer highly competitive contracts.

The second nagging point is that even if something resembling a level playing field can be achieved within a relatively narrow range of products, the rules of the game dictate that intermediaries will continue to recommend products that provide them with acceptable levels of commission. That excludes a whole variety of options such as National Savings and investment trusts.

Tony Shepherd has the right idea. Mr Shepherd is a financial adviser who has just teamed up with the international accountancy firm Ernst & Whinney to provide life and pensions consultancy services to private clients of the firm.

Mr Shepherd is outspoken in his criticism of the life assurance commission payment system. He says: "I believe the commission payment system should be reformed radically. Only when it is replaced by competitive fees will the best interests of clients be served and conflicts of interest removed."

Quize Peter Gartland

Venturing into Europe, with promise

In the first few weeks of 1987 unit trust investment in Europe has been focused on single-country funds, notably Spain and Switzerland. This follows the single European country fashion that started with West Germany in 1985 and continued with France and The Netherlands last year.

With such specialisation now becoming an established feature of the unit trust industry, one should be reminded that there is a choice of more than 60 funds offering capital growth from Continental European equities, not confined to a specific country, as well as a handful of funds that aim for income from European equities.

This week a promising newcomer was added to the list of European growth funds. The European Special Situations Fund has been launched by



Stephen Peak: manager

has recently led off predatory attentions from the giant American insurance company Metropolitan Life.

European Special Situations is the 11th unit trust from Touche Ross since it entered the industry in 1983, but the company says it intends to avoid unnecessary

further additions of funds aimed at passing fashions.

The manager of the latest addition is Stephen Peak, and in London this week he provided his overview of the European scene for UK investors.

Overall, according to Mr Peak, 1987 will be a year of modest gross domestic product growth throughout Europe, with Italy and Spain probably providing the best results and the Scandinavian countries the worst. Italy and Spain are also likely to provide the best corporate profits growth. The relationship between sterling and Euro-currencies will probably result in a slight advantage for British investors.

Those who invest in the TR fund will be exposed to currency fluctuations because it is not Mr Peak's intention to enter into currency hedging arrangements. On value for

money in equity markets themselves, Mr Peak says Holland is cheap, Switzerland is a "lockaway" investment, and the "miser" Scandinavian countries - Norway, Finland and Denmark - represent individual opportunities. He is cautiously optimistic on Austria, but warns of volatility in France and Italy.

On the emphasis of fund investment itself, TR plans to operate its European Special Situations Fund on a 60-40 split between tactical selection of stocks and strategic market selection. The tactical selection will be in shares perceived to be undervalued or representing turnaround situations, while the strategic selection will be of markets perceived to have the most promise, with the emphasis here on stocks of major blue chip companies.

PG

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Offer	Chg	Yld	Unit	Offer	Chg	Yld	Unit	Offer	Chg	Yld	Unit	Offer	Chg	Yld	Unit	Offer	Chg	Yld
UNITED STATES LIFE ASSURANCE																			
100% Paid-Up, 100% Cash Surrender Value																			
100% Paid-Up	10.00	11.00	+10.0	100% Paid-Up	11.00	12.00	+9.1	100% Paid-Up	12.00	13.00	+8.3	100% Paid-Up	13.00	14.00	+7.7	100% Paid-Up	14.00	15.00	+7.1
100% Paid-Up	15.00	16.00	+6.7	100% Paid-Up	17.00	18.00	+5.9	100% Paid-Up	19.00	20.00	+5.3	100% Paid-Up	21.00	22.00	+4.8	100% Paid-Up	23.00	24.00	+4.3
100% Paid-Up	25.00	26.00	+4.0	100% Paid-Up	27.00	28.00	+3.7	100% Paid-Up	29.00	30.00	+3.4	100% Paid-Up	31.00	32.00	+3.1	100% Paid-Up	33.00	34.00	+2.8
100% Paid-Up	35.00	36.00	+2.5	100% Paid-Up	37.00	38.00	+2.2	100% Paid-Up	39.00	40.00	+1.9	100% Paid-Up	41.00	42.00	+1.6	100% Paid-Up	43.00	44.00	+1.3
100% Paid-Up	45.00	46.00	+1.0	100% Paid-Up	47.00	48.00	+0.7	100% Paid-Up	49.00	50.00	+0.4	100% Paid-Up	51.00	52.00	+0.1	100% Paid-Up	53.00	54.00	-0.2
100% Paid-Up	55.00	56.00	-0.5	100% Paid-Up	57.00	58.00	-0.8	100% Paid-Up	59.00	60.00	-1.1	100% Paid-Up	61.00	62.00	-1.4	100% Paid-Up	63.00	64.00	-1.7
100% Paid-Up	65.00	66.00	-2.0	100% Paid-Up	67.00	68.00	-2.3	100% Paid-Up	69.00	70.00	-2.6	100% Paid-Up	71.00	72.00	-2.9	100% Paid-Up	73.00	74.00	-3.2
100% Paid-Up	75.00	76.00	-3.5	100% Paid-Up	77.00	78.00	-3.8	100% Paid-Up	79.00	80.00	-4.1	100% Paid-Up	81.00	82.00	-4.4	100% Paid-Up	83.00	84.00	-4.7
100% Paid-Up	85.00	86.00	-5.0	100% Paid-Up	87.00	88.00	-5.3	100% Paid-Up	89.00	90.00	-5.6	100% Paid-Up	91.00	92.00	-5.9	100% Paid-Up	93.00	94.00	-6.2
100% Paid-Up	95.00	96.00	-6.5	100% Paid-Up	97.00	98.00	-6.8	100% Paid-Up	99.00	100.00	-7.1	100% Paid-Up	101.00	102.00	-7.4	100% Paid-Up	103.00	104.00	-7.7
100% Paid-Up	105.00	106.00	-8.0	100% Paid-Up	107.00	108.00	-8.3	100% Paid-Up	109.00	110.00	-8.6	100% Paid-Up	111.00	112.00	-8.9	100% Paid-Up	113.00	114.00	-9.2
100% Paid-Up	115.00	116.00	-9.5	100% Paid-Up	117.00	118.00	-9.8	100% Paid-Up	119.00	120.00	-10.1	100% Paid-Up	121.00	122.00	-10.4	100% Paid-Up	123.00	124.00	-10.7
100% Paid-Up	125.00	126.00	-11.0	100% Paid-Up	127.00	128.00	-11.3	100% Paid-Up	129.00	130.00	-11.6	100% Paid-Up	131.00	132.00	-11.9	100% Paid-Up	133.00	134.00	-12.2
100% Paid-Up	135.00	136.00	-12.5	100% Paid-Up	137.00	138.00	-12.8	100% Paid-Up	139.00	140.00	-13.1	100% Paid-Up	141.00	142.00	-13.4	100% Paid-Up	143.00	144.00	-13.7
100% Paid-Up	145.00	146.00	-14.0	100% Paid-Up	147.00	148.00	-14.3	100% Paid-Up	149.00	150.00	-14.6	100% Paid-Up	151.00	152.00	-14.9	100% Paid-Up	153.00	154.00	-15.2
100% Paid-Up	155.00	156.00	-15.5	100% Paid-Up	157.00	158.00	-15.8	100% Paid-Up	159.00	160.00	-16.1	100% Paid-Up	161.00	162.00	-16.4	100% Paid-Up	163.00	164.00	-16.7
100% Paid-Up	165.00	166.00	-17.0	100% Paid-Up	167.00	168.00	-17.3	100% Paid-Up	169.00	170.00	-17.6	100% Paid-Up	171.00	172.00	-17.9	100% Paid-Up	173.00	174.00	-18.2
100% Paid-Up	175.00	176.00	-18.5	100% Paid-Up	177.00	178.00	-18.8	100% Paid-Up	179.00	180.00	-19.1	100% Paid-Up	181.00	182.00	-19.4	100% Paid-Up	183.00	184.00	-19.7
100% Paid-Up	185.00	186.00	-20.0	100% Paid-Up	187.00	188.00	-20.3	100% Paid-Up	189.00	190.00	-20.6	100% Paid-Up	191.00	192.00	-20.9	100% Paid-Up	193.00	194.00	-21.2
100% Paid-Up	195.00	196.00	-21.5	100% Paid-Up	197.00	198.00	-21.8	100% Paid-Up	199.00	200.00	-22.1	100% Paid-Up	201.00	202.00	-22.4	100% Paid-Up	203.00	204.00	-22.7
100% Paid-Up	205.00	206.00	-23.0	100% Paid-Up	207.00	208.00	-23.3	100% Paid-Up	209.00	210.00	-23.6	100% Paid-Up	211.00	212.00	-23.9	100% Paid-Up	213.00	214.00	-24.2
100% Paid-Up	215.00	216.00	-24.5	100% Paid-Up	217.00	218.00	-24.8	100% Paid-Up	219.00	220.00	-25.1	100% Paid-Up	221.00	222.00	-25.4	100% Paid-Up	223.00	224.00	-25.7
100% Paid-Up	225.00	226.00	-26.0	100% Paid-Up	227.00	228.00	-26.3	100% Paid-Up	229.00	230.00	-26.6	100% Paid-Up	231.00	232.00	-26.9	100% Paid-Up	233.00	234.00	-27.2
100% Paid-Up	235.00	236.00	-27.5	100% Paid-Up	237.00	238.00	-27.8	100% Paid-Up	239.00	240.00	-28.1	100% Paid-Up	241.00	242.00	-28.4	100% Paid-Up	243.00	244.00	-28.7
100% Paid-Up	245.00	246.00	-29.0	100% Paid-Up	247.00	248.00	-29.3	100% Paid-Up	249.00	250.00	-29.6	100% Paid-Up	251.00	252.00	-29.9	100% Paid-Up	253.00	254.00	-30.2
100% Paid-Up	255.00	256.00	-30.5	100% Paid-Up	257.00	258.00	-30.8	100% Paid-Up	259.00	260.00	-31.1	100% Paid-Up	261.00	262.00	-31.4	100% Paid-Up	263.00	264.00	-31.7
100% Paid-Up	265.00	266.00	-32.0	100% Paid-Up	267.00	268.00	-32.3	100% Paid-Up	269.00	270.00	-32.6	100% Paid-Up	271.00	272.00	-32.9	100% Paid-Up	273.00	274.00	-33.2
100% Paid-Up	275.00	276.00	-33.5	100% Paid-Up	277.00	278.00	-33.8	100% Paid-Up	279.00	280.00	-34.1	100% Paid-Up	281.00	282.00	-34.4	100% Paid-Up	283.00	284.00	-34.7
100% Paid-Up	285.00	286.00	-35.0	100% Paid-Up	287.00	288.00	-35.3	100% Paid-Up	289.00	290.00	-35.6	100% Paid-Up	291.00	292.00	-35.9	100% Paid-Up	293.00	294.00	-36.2
100% Paid-Up	295.00	296.00	-36.5	100% Paid-Up	297.00	298.00	-36.8	100% Paid-Up	299.00	300.00	-37.1	100% Paid-Up	301.00	302.00	-37.4	100% Paid-Up	303.00	304.00	-37.7
100% Paid-Up	305.00	306.00	-38.0	100% Paid-Up	307.00	308.00	-38.3	100% Paid-Up	309.00	310.00	-38.6	100% Paid-Up	311.00	312.00	-38.9	100% Paid-Up	313.00	314.00	-39.2
100% Paid-Up	315.00	316.00	-39.5	100% Paid-Up	317.00	318.00	-39.8	100% Paid-Up	319.00	320.00	-40.1	100% Paid-Up	321.00	322.00	-40.4	100% Paid-Up	323.00	324.00	-40.7
100% Paid-Up	325.00	326.00	-41.0	100% Paid-Up	327.00	328.00	-41.3	100% Paid-Up	329.00	330.00	-41.6	100% Paid-Up	331.00	332.00	-41.9	100% Paid-Up	333.00	334.00	-42.2
100% Paid-Up	335.00	336.00	-42.5	100% Paid-Up	337.00	338.00	-42.8	100% Paid-Up	339.00	340.00	-43.1	100% Paid-Up	341.00	342.00	-43.4	100% Paid-Up	343.00	344.00	-43.7
100% Paid-Up	345.00	346.00	-44.0	100% Paid-Up	347.00	348.00	-44.3	100% Paid-Up	349.00	350.00	-44.6	100% Paid-Up	351.00	352.00	-44.9	100% Paid-Up	353.00	354.00	-45.2
100% Paid-Up	355.00	356.00	-45.5	100% Paid-Up	357.00	358.00	-45.8	100% Paid-Up	359.00	360.00	-46.1	100% Paid-Up	361.00	362.00	-46.4	100% Paid-Up	363.00	364.00	-46.7
100% Paid-Up	365.00	366.00	-47.0	100% Paid-Up	367.00	368.00	-47.3	100% Paid-Up	369.00	370.00	-47.6	100% Paid-Up	371.00	372.00	-47.9	100% Paid-Up	373.00	374.00	-48.2
100% Paid-Up	375.00	376.00	-48.5	100% Paid-Up	377.00	378.00	-48.8	100% Paid-Up	379.00	380.00	-49.1	100% Paid-Up	381.00	382.00	-49.4	100% Paid-Up	383.00	384.00	-49.7
100% Paid-Up	385.00	386.00	-50.0	100% Paid-Up	387.00	388.00	-50.3	100% Paid-Up	389.00	390.00	-50.6	100% Paid-Up	391.00	392.00	-50.9	100% Paid-Up	393.00	394.00	-51.2
100% Paid-Up	395.00	396.00	-51.5	100% Paid-Up	397.00	398.00	-51.8	100% Paid-Up	399.00	400.00	-52.1	100% Paid-Up	401.00	402.00	-52.4	100% Paid-Up	403.00	404.00	-52.7
100% Paid-Up	405.00	406.00	-53.0	100% Paid-Up	407.00	408.00	-53.3	100% Paid-Up	409.00	410.00	-53.6	100% Paid-Up	411.00	412.00	-53.9	100% Paid-Up	413.00	414.00	-54.2
100% Paid-Up	415.00	416.00	-54.5	100% Paid-Up	417.00	418.00	-54.8	100% Paid-Up	419.00	420.00	-55.1	100% Paid-Up	421.00	422.00	-55.4	100% Paid-Up	423.00	424.00	-55.7
100% Paid-Up	425.00	426.00	-56.0	100% Paid-Up	427.00	428.00	-56.3	100% Paid-Up	429.00	430.00	-56.6	100% Paid-Up	431.00	432.00	-56.9	100% Paid-Up	433.00	434.00	-57.2
100% Paid-Up	435.00	436.00	-57.5	100% Paid-Up	437.00	438.00	-57.8	100% Paid-Up	439.00	440.00	-58.1	100% Paid-Up	441.00	442.00	-58.4	100% Paid-Up	443.00	444.00	-58.7
100% Paid-Up	445.00	446.00	-59.0	100% Paid-Up	447.00	448.00	-59.3	100% Paid-Up	449.00	450.00	-59.6	100% Paid-Up	451.00	452.00	-59.9	100% Paid-Up	453.00	454.00	-60.2
100% Paid-Up	455.00	456.00	-60.5	100% Paid-Up	457.00	458.00	-60.8	100% Paid-Up	459.00	460.00	-61.1	100% Paid-Up	461.00	462.00	-61.4	100% Paid-Up	463.00	464.00	-61.7
100% Paid-Up	465.00	466.00	-62.0	100% Paid-Up	467.00	468.00	-62.3	100% Paid-Up	469.00	470.00	-62.6	100% Paid-Up	471.00	472.00	-62.9	100% Paid-Up	473.00	474.00	-63.2
100% Paid-Up	475.00	476.00	-63.5	100% Paid-Up	477.00	478.00	-63.8	100% Paid-Up	479.00	480.00	-64.1	100% Paid-Up	481.00	482.00	-64.4	100% Paid-Up	483.00	484.00	-64.7
100% Paid-Up	485.00	486.00	-65.0	100% Paid-Up	487.00	488.00	-65.3	100% Paid-Up	489.00	490.00	-65.6	100% Paid-Up	491.00	492.00	-65.9	100% Paid-Up	493.00	494.00	-66.2
100% Paid-Up	495.00	496.00	-66.5	100% Paid-Up	497.00	498.00	-66.8	100% Paid-Up	499.00	500.00	-67.1	100% Paid-Up	501.00	502.00	-67.4	100% Paid-Up	503.00	504.00	-67.7
100% Paid-Up	505.00	506.00	-68.0	100% Paid-Up	507.00	508.00	-68.3	100% Paid-Up	509.00	510.00	-68.6	100% Paid-Up	511.00	512.00	-68.9	100% Paid-Up	513.00	514.00	-69.2
100% Paid-Up	515.00	516.00	-69.5	100% Paid-Up	517.00	518.00	-69.8	100% Paid-Up	519.00	520.00	-70.1	100% Paid-Up	521.00	522.00	-70.4	100% Paid-Up	523.00	524.00	-70.7
100% Paid-Up	525.00	526.00	-71.0	100% Paid-Up	527.00	528.00	-71.3	100% Paid-Up	529.00	530.00	-71.6	100% Paid-Up	531.00	532.00	-71.9	100% Paid-Up	533.00	534.00	-72.2
100% Paid-Up	535.00	536.00	-72.5	100% Paid-Up	537.00	538.00	-72.8	100% Paid-Up	539.00	540.00	-73.1	100% Paid-Up	541.00	542.00	-73.4	100% Paid-Up	543.00	544.00	-73.7
100% Paid-Up	545.00	546.00	-74.0	100% Paid-Up	547.00	548.00	-74.3	100% Paid-Up	549.00	550.00	-74.6	100% Paid-Up	551.00	552.00	-74.9	100% Paid-Up	553.00	554.00	-75.2
100% Paid-Up	555.00	556.00	-75.5	100% Paid-Up	557.00	558.00	-75.8	100% Paid-Up	559.00	560.00	-76.1	100% Paid-Up	561.00	562.00	-76.4	100% Paid-Up	563.00	564.00	-76.7
100% Paid-Up	565.00	566.00	-77.0	100% Paid-Up	567.00	568.00	-77.3	100% Paid-Up	569.00	570.00	-77.6	100% Paid-Up	571.00	572.00	-77.9	100% Paid-Up	573.00	574.00	-78.2
100% Paid-Up	575.00	576.00	-78.5	100% Paid-Up	577.00	578.00	-78.8	100% Paid-Up	579.00	580.00	-79.1	100% Paid-Up	581.00						

FAMILY MONEY/2

And still the home loans money is rolling out

■ The mortgage market remains highly competitive and funds continue to be readily available from most sources. That is the message in the latest edition of *Clay's Mortgage Tables*, published this week.

Blay's points out that variations in lending rates and terms continue to be marked. It says that while most rates have stabilized at or around 12.25 per cent, it is still possible for purchasers to pay as little as 10.75 per cent (a fixed rate from Eagle Star) or more than 14 per cent (some of the smaller building societies). So buyers should continue to shop around carefully.

Meanwhile, mortgage brokers Chase de Vere (Pall Mall) are introducing what they call a "quickie" mortgage from Monday. Not only can it be arranged at high speed, claim the brokers, but at 11.75 per cent interest it is also 0.5 per cent lower than the market going rate.

Details: Chase de Vere (Pall Mall) Ltd, 125 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA (01-930 7242).

That little Extrahelp

■ Royal Insurance, which insures 800,000 cars in the UK, has launched an optional extra available on its private car policies. The new Extrahelp service is designed to help Royal policyholders to recover uninsured losses following an accident in which another driver is to blame. If Royal policyholders interpret that as meaning every accident, then that is only human nature running true to form.

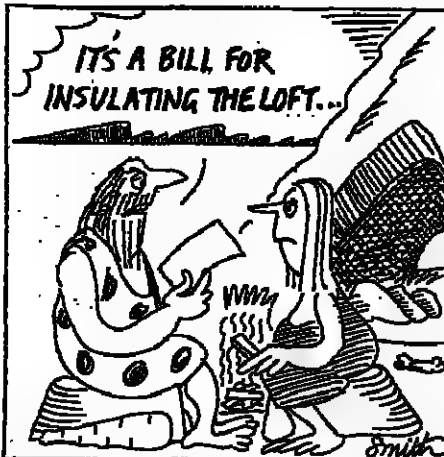
For an annual premium of £7.50, policyholders will get help in recovering such costs as repairs under non-comprehensive policies, car hire charges and injury claims.

Extrahelp is available through all Royal's brokers, agents and its offices throughout the UK.

Growing at home

■ Scimitar Asset Management, part of Standard Chartered Bank, has launched a UK growth unit trust with a minimum investment of £500. Scimitar points to factors such as the prospect of falling interest rates and the likelihood of a tax-cutting Budget to support its belief that the UK will be the place for capital growth in 1987.

Another new unit trust comes from Highcliffe Financial Services of Hampshire. The Highcliffe



Growth Trust has a minimum investment of £1,000 and will look for capital growth from a portfolio of UK and overseas investments. Details: Scimitar Asset Management, 33-36 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0AX (01-923 8711); Highcliffe Financial Services, 10 House, 65 High Street, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9AL (0590 71234).

Covering the costly way

■ National Westminster Insurance Services has introduced a redundancy insurance scheme, underwritten by Excess Insurance Group. NatWest's Redundancy Protector is available to employed people aged 18-55 who have been with their present employer for at least 12 months. Monthly benefit of up to a maximum of £500 is provided for 12 months at a premium rate of £3.50 a month. So, if you choose a benefit of £500 a month, the monthly premium works out at £17.50.

In other words, it is expensive — but there is little else on the market, so NatWest and Excess can set their own rates. Also, you cannot take out this contract if you are aware of impending redundancy, and if you are made redundant in the first 60 days of taking out the cover you cannot claim. In those circumstances, all you get back are the premiums you have paid in.

Not recommended.

■ Last week's Family Money item on Russian bonds referred to the Soviet foreign minister as 'okras Shevardnadze'. Mr Shevardnadze's first name is, of course, Eduard. Last Saturday too an incorrect figure appeared in the table illustrating the age allowance trap. The reduced age allowance figure should have read £4,405, not £5,145, as published.

Tax relief: will you feel the pinch?

MORTGAGES

There are endless permutations in the way in which a government can legislate on mortgage tax relief.

The arguments throughout the political spectrum range from no relief at all through to relief at the highest rate with no limit on the size of loan. There are many sub-plots in between based both on the borrower's highest rate of income tax and the loan size itself. The practice adopted in the UK is for relief to be available at the borrower's highest rate of income tax on the interest element of loans up to £30,000.

The subject of mortgage interest relief came back to the forefront this week with renewed speculation that a future Labour government would restrict mortgage interest relief to the standard rate of tax, currently 29 per cent.

It is a possibility that is not without its attractions, particularly if you believe that the higher the rate of income tax being paid by an individual so the less that individual needs the additional relief. The contrary view is that people paying the most tax should get the highest relief.

Whatever your own view, the fact is that a limitation on mortgage interest relief to standard rate tax would make

a considerable difference to the monthly mortgage repayments of all higher rate taxpayers.

Just how big a difference is shown in the accompanying table, which assumes a 25-year loan taken out by a 35-year-old man and his 30-year-old wife at an interest rate of 12.25 per cent. The figures show how the monthly repayments for a low-cost endowment, a low-start endowment and a repayment mortgage with mortgage protection insurance would increase for a 50 per cent taxpayer if mortgage interest relief were limited to the standard rate of 29 per cent on varying loan sizes.

So, for example, on a loan of £30,000 the monthly difference in repayments for a low-start endowment would be £64.31.

Paul Marks, managing director of mortgage specialists Chase de Vere in Pall Mall, thinks it unlikely that the Chancellor will raise the £30,000 threshold in his Budget on March 17. "Too provocative," says Mr Marks.

Mandy Witt, of financial advisers Shearman Associates, believes many couples are prepared to stretch themselves financially because of the higher rate relief, and that house prices will be affected drastically if the Labour Party forms the next government.

Peter Gartland

Loan	Endowment low cost	Endowment low start	Repayment
£15,000			
(@ 50% tax)	£99.25	£90.92	£91.36
(@ 29% tax)	£131.40	£123.07	£123.45
£30,000			
(@ 50% tax)	£197.50	£180.85	£181.60
(@ 29% tax)	£261.81	£245.16	£245.91
£60,000			
(@ 50% tax)	£547.13	£513.93	£515.31
(@ 29% tax)	£811.44	£758.14	£759.62

Source: Chase de Vere

The gold opportunity

An advertisement in the financial Press says: "Why shift back and forth on paper investments when you can secure your assets in solid gold?" Is that a fact?

Anyone who bought gold at more than \$800 an ounce early in 1980 is still, seven years later, showing a hefty financial loss.

True, that was exceptionally unlucky. The price has never been that high before or since. But pre-1980 investors who passed up the chance to take a handsome profit are still ahead.

After several years in the doldrums gold began to shine again in 1986.

Over the year the price averaged \$368 against \$317 in 1985 — a respectable 16 per cent gain. Exchange rates, however, left the British gold bug only about \$5 better off.

The price is now hovering around the \$400 mark and some experts are predicting \$500 before the year is out.

Traditionally, gold has been regarded as a long-term hedge against inflation and it still is. But the gold specialists are now beginning to promote the short-term view.

As Lord Keynes said: "In the long run we are all dead". With this philosophy in mind, Alar Davison, of Shearson Lehman Brothers, says: "Purchases and sales have to be timed so as to benefit in the short and medium term."

Writing in the International Gold Corporation's gold market review, he says US interest

rates are likely to remain positive and this will put pressure on the gold price. On the other hand, further weakness in the dollar could benefit gold.

He dismisses as only a remote possibility the threatened sales of gold by central banks in order to put economic pressure on the South African government.

Albert Loveless, of New Court International, agrees that investment demand rather than inflation fears is likely to determine the gold price through 1987. He points also to the mass minting of gold

coins by the Americans, Australians and Japanese.

He says: "Coin demand should be the key to the gold price in 1987, aided by general investment interest if the US trade deficit fails to respond to the weaker dollar. These should more than offset higher production and heavy Russian gold sales."

Mr Loveless forecasts an average price for the year of \$475 — 38 per cent higher than the 1986 average.

Few people wanting to invest put money into gold bullion or coins. A gold bar does not produce income, and bits of it cannot be sold off when money is needed quickly.

For those who can see the gold market for some of their

spare cash, the answer may be a unit trust.

Authorized unit trusts are not allowed to invest directly in gold, only in the shares of mining companies, so there is no hope of precious metal for the investor to gloat over. And during the past two-year and three-year periods investors in the commodity sector have had little to feel satisfied about.

In 1986, however, the average commodity fund is shown by the financial magazine *Money Management* to have clocked up a gain of 24 per cent.

Two trusts — MIM Britannia Gold and Schroder Gold, turned in gains of 54 per cent and 52 per cent respectively. In the final month Schroder put on 9.5 per cent and MIM Britannia 8.5 per cent.

Both trusts are almost fully invested in gold mining companies — Schroder 40 per cent in South Africa and 26 per cent in Australia. MIM Britannia has a 44 per cent stake in Australia, 18 per cent in South Africa, and 30 per cent in the United States.

Nigel Hale, of MIM, says: "Gold mining companies in Australia do not pay tax, so there is greater leverage for the gold price there than anywhere else in the world."

At Schroder David Bristow says: "I'm very bullish about gold."

Both believe that the price could go to \$500 this year.

Joe Irving

Self-Employed?

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Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Building Society are available in the Exel Statistical Services. Copies may be collected from Companies Announcements Office, P.O. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 10th February, 1987 and until 23rd February, 1987 from:

Fulton Prebon Sterling Ltd.,
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7th February, 1987

Security and growth.

Now you can have the best of both worlds.

The Cheltenham Security and Growth Plan is a unique investment formulated by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society in association with Gartmore Fund Managers Limited. In short, it combines the security of a building society account with the growth potential of a unit trust — all in one simple plan.

HOW IT WORKS

The plan is made up of two parts; a C&G High Interest Account and the Cheltenham UK Growth Trust, especially established by Gartmore for C&G investors. It is simple to operate — because we do all the paper work.

The minimum investment is £5,000, all of which goes into the C&G High Interest Account for total security. Interest on the Account is paid monthly and automatically transferred to buy units in the Cheltenham UK Growth Trust. If you invest more than £5,000, any amount over the minimum can be invested in either part of the plan.

PASSBOOK SIMPLICITY

There is no lengthy paperwork to worry about. The plan provides a passbook in which all transactions are entered. Monitoring your investment couldn't be simpler.

THE C&G HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT

The interest paid on the account will be the same as that paid in the Society's highly competitive Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest Account. Investments of £5,000 or more currently earn 8.23% net paid monthly, rising to 8.46% net paid monthly on investments of £10,000 or more. These rates may vary.

All interest on the account is transferred automatically to purchase units in the Cheltenham UK Growth Trust, so that your number of units grows month by month.

CHELTENHAM UK GROWTH TRUST

Under Gartmore's professional management, individual investments are pooled to purchase a spread of investments in a carefully selected range of major British companies and Government backed securities. This plan reduces the risk of currency fluctuations. The aim is to produce long term capital growth utilising Gartmore's expertise.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

However, between November 1976 and November 1986 the UK market has risen by 848% (FT All Share Index income re-invested assuming 30% tax level, source IDC/Opal). The current unit prices and yield are available from any C&G Branch or from the City Pages of the quality daily newspapers. Units are held in a nominee account in the name of Gartmore Nominees Limited.

INSTANT 'HIGH STREET' ACCESS

You can pay in or draw out of your plan, including the purchase or sale of units, at any time, simply by calling in at your local C&G branch.

FLEXIBILITY

The plan is totally flexible. You may add to either your C&G High Interest Account or Cheltenham UK Growth Trust as you wish, subject to a minimum additional investment of £50 in the Unit Trust. You may also switch between the two parts of the plan subject to the £5,000 minimum in your C&G High Interest Account. Transactions in the Trust will be at the current daily prices.

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Gartmore is one of the country's leading independent investment companies, currently managing 22 UK authorised Unit Trusts with total funds under management in excess of £2,700 million, establishing itself as one of the top performers in Unit Trust management.

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To: Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, PO Box 124, FREEPOST, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 1BR.

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This sum is to be invested in the plan as follows:

C&G High Interest Account: £_____

(minimum £5,000)

Cheltenham UK Growth Trust: £_____

(initial investment optional)

I/We understand that the monthly interest on the C&G High Interest Account will be used to purchase units, at the current daily offer price, in the Cheltenham UK Growth Trust and that the annual income from the Trust is automatically reinvested. Cheques should be made payable to: Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.

☐ Please send more details.

Full name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss

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SUBST 2

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

CHIEF OFFICE: CHELTENHAM HOUSE, CLARENCE STREET, CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL50 3JR. TELEPHONE: (0242) 36161. Member of the Building Societies Association. Assets exceed £3,500 million. Branches throughout the UK. See Yellow Pages.

Units are dealt in daily, and prices and yields are published in the quality national press. Units will be allocated at the offer price ruling on the day of investment. The Trust Deed provides for an initial management charge of 5.25% but the Management charge in charge only 4.5% of the value of the assets. The present annual charge is 4.5% of the value of the fund, as compared with the maximum of 5.25% permitted in the Trust Deed and the Managers report (see unit holders 3 months notice of any increase). This annual charge is deducted from the gross income of the trust and is allowed for in the estimated current gross yield of 25%. Income from the Trust is automatically reinvested in additional units each year on 13th April or the next business day thereafter, commencing 13th April 1988. An annual report will be sent to each unit holder in April each year starting in 1988, with a certificate of the unit holder's account and a statement of the unit holder's income. Higher rate tax payers will be able to claim additional tax and must provide their professional adviser. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is the only intermediary; remuneration rates are available on request. Trustees: Cautts & Co. Managers: Gartmore Fund Managers Limited, 2 St Mary's Lane, London EC3A 8BP. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

£Profitable Pursuits£

- Q1** Which EEC member country is expected to produce the fastest rate of economic growth in 1987?
- Q2** Which country in the world had the largest increase in international reserves per capita last year?
- Q3** In sterling terms, which were the two best performing stockmarkets in the world in 1986?
- Q4** Which country increased its manufactured exports 400% over the last five years, whilst also becoming a major tourist destination?
- Q5** Which countries' exports are larger than their GNP?

Answers: 1. Spain, 2. Taiwan, 3. Philippines and Mexico, 4. Turkey, 5. Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea.

Surprised? Gartmore has many more such answers, so to find out more about the pursuit of profit, don't miss Gartmore's advertising in next weekend's press.

Gartmore
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

A cash call 'to kill the Aids virus'

BES

As the end of another tax year draws inexorably closer, investors with a liability to higher rate tax — and some spare cash — should at least give a thought to investing money in a Business Expansion Scheme company or fund.

LAWRENCE LEVER reports

The BES allows investors tax relief on investments they make of up to £40,000 in certain types of qualifying companies. You qualify for tax relief up to your maximum rates — making the scheme particularly attractive for higher rate taxpayers.

An investment of £10,000, therefore, costs a 60 per cent taxpayer only £4,000. This is undoubtedly attractive — and investments must be made before the end of the tax year in order to qualify.

But BES companies are often fairly risky ventures, and a number have already gone bust. Our £10,000 investor, if he chose one of these companies, might be glad that he had not lost £10,000. But he is still at least £4,000 worse off.

Another drawback is that you have to keep your investment in the company for at least five years. Even then you might, at the end of five years, not find it so easy to realize your investment and crystallize your gain.

Any gain you do make is free of capital gains tax, thanks to Nigel Lawson's last Budget which was very favourable to the BES scheme even though the Chancellor did manage to overplay the scheme's previous record.

One company about which we have a number of reservations is Protecto plc. This company, which has no spon-

or, is seeking to market a disinfectant which it claims destroys the Aids virus.

The lack of any sponsor, let alone a reputable one, means there is no third party prepared to impose checks and put its reputation on the line if the company fails.

Protecto has two directors, Anthony Broughton and his wife Yvonne. They already run a company called Atom Chemicals Ltd, which manufactures the disinfectant and several other products and arranges for their sale.

According to the prospectus Mr Broughton "has been employed in middle and upper management for the past 14 years", while Mrs Broughton is finance director of Atom Chemicals, "where she has been responsible for guiding the company through its early trading period to the present level of profitability".

The file on Atom Chemicals **Doing very well, says the auditor**

at Companies House shows Mr Broughton's business occupation described as a "salesman" and of Mrs Broughton as a "secretary".

Mrs Broughton says these descriptions are "not correct now". Apart from the fact that Atom Chemicals does not do the selling itself, she says her husband has built up a number of successful businesses and that she had indeed been in business ever since their marriage and has seen Atom Chemicals through to the position it is in now.

The last two sets of audited accounts available from Companies House show that Atom Chemicals made a loss in both years, and has a mounting level of debts and an increasing deficit on its balance sheet.

In the 12 months to January 31, 1984, the company made a loss of more than £27,000 and had a deficit — the amount by

which liabilities exceed the assets of the company — of £27,411.

In the most recently filed set of accounts the company lost £4,050 and has a balance sheet deficit now standing at more than £31,000.

However, according to the company's auditor Mervyn Bright, two more recent sets of accounts have been filed. These show that last year Atom Chemicals made trading profits of more than £29,000 and the year before of more than £15,000. The deficit has now been transformed to a surplus of £7,566 and the company, on the latest information, is doing very well.

Mr and Mrs Broughton, the two directors, are intending to take half of the company in return for their research on the disinfectant and transferring their rights in it to the company.

They both have five-year service agreements — the husband at £25,000 a year and the wife at £15,000 a year — even though the company, which has not traded yet, is planning to raise just over £125,000. "If we actually take the salaries stated we would be very pleased," says Mrs Broughton. "We would never take more out of the company than it could bear."

"It's nonsense to suggest that we are only interested in the money," says Mr Broughton. "What about the fact that the prospectus shows that the two directors have a ridiculously wide power to issue share options to whomsoever they like and the directors have 'absolute discretion' to determine how much they should pay themselves?"

"Our accountant advised us about those sorts of things," Mrs Broughton says.

Mr Bright considers those things are not within his remit. He says: "My opinion doesn't enter into it. These matters were decided by the company and its solicitors."

He does say, however, that the directors are in his opinion bound by their service agreements and could not change them without shareholders' consent.

Protecto has entered into a contract with an independent third party who has agreed to purchase substantial quantities of the disinfectant. It is also projecting profits of £42,855 in the first year of its operations.

Turning to other BES offers, Johnson Fry is looking for up to £15 million for Edinburgh Tankers, which intends to buy one or more tankers to transport CPP products between British and European ports. CPP is the abbreviation for clean petroleum products and includes such things as petrol and aviation spirit.

The minimum subscription of £4.5 million has already

been underwritten, so the issue will definitely not be grounded by shortage of funds. The issue expenses are reasonable, varying between 6.5 and 9.9 per cent of the funds raised, depending on how much money is forthcoming.

The management team includes the current chairman of the publicly quoted Ocean Transport and Trading —

William Menzies-Wilson — who will be retiring from that company soon.

Management services will be provided by Ben Line Steamers Ltd — although not for nothing, Ben Line will be paid administrative services and ship management services of £40,000 per ship per year — a figure which has been independently verified as reasonable. Ben Line is also investing £50,000 of its own money in the company on the same terms as outsiders.

Altogether the management and the sponsor have options over 15 per cent of the company. The terms of the options are more generous than the Johnson Fry norm — although they are not exercisable unless growth of 50 per cent over five years is achieved.

Until then it appears the company belongs wholly to its investors as the directors do not appear to have invested any of their own money in the company. "It's not that sort of BES issue," says Charles Fry, of Johnson Fry.

This is in sharp contrast to another Johnson Fry BES issue on the market — Unicorn Heritage. This is a less asset-backed venture than Edinburgh Tankers — the assets in that case being the ships — but the management team is putting up £700,000 on the same terms as are available to outside investors.

Unicorn Heritage is looking for a less ambitious £4.8

million. It hopes to site an exhibition at the Barbican in central London, although the site has not been definitely secured.

The exhibition is to be a testimony to royalty and the Royal family — providing both a historical viewpoint and a contemporaneous account of the royals. The company hopes it will become as attractive to tourists as such lucrative venues as Madame Tussaud's and the Tower of London.

The exhibition will make use of high-tech simulation. For example, instead of just seeing a still life model of Mary Queen of Scots going to meet her fate, high technology could be used to recreate the atmosphere and movement of the event. It sounds interesting, and admission fees to the exhibition should form the bulk of the revenue of Unicorn Heritage.

Modest profits already made

It also expects to make money out of merchandising and on-site catering facilities.

Acorn Hardwoods is another BES company that does not have a sponsor. It is already trading, having previously raised money under the BES and has made modest profits. It buys timber or sawing quality logs, converts them into boards and sub-

Continued on facing page

BUSINESS EXPANSION COMPANIES

Company	Activity	Sponsor	Telephone	Indiv Min	Closing Date
Acorn Hardwoods	Timber	Acorn	0728 3377	£520	April 3
Black Horse Brewery	Brewery Development	Pointon York	01-531 3015	£250	March 14
Brewery Shipping	Shipping	LET	01-581 1922	£500	March 14
Cafe Time	Pubs & Pastries	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£2,000	March 31
Capitalist	Travel Agency	Leading Ladies	01-437 8413	£1,250	Open-ended
Cavendish Constructors	Building Contractors	Smith & Williamson	01-637 5377	£2,500	Feb 28
Country House Hotels	Country Hotels	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£1,000	April 5
Dix Belgravia	Pty Development	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£3,000	April 5
Edinburgh Tankers	Petroleum Freight	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£3,000	March 4
Gladding Secured Contractors	Pty Development	Chancery Securities	01-242 2563	£575	Feb 12
Int-Trax	Licensed Trade	Goldhouse	01-606 6321	£500	Feb 17
Jewell Electronics	Digital Syst Eng	Goldhouse	0533 515515	£553	April 27
Lockton Shops	Specialist retail	Guinness Mahon	01-623 8333	£1,000	March 14
Peter Ling Design	Building & Design	Austin Horn	01-499 0329	£2,500	Feb 16
Portledge Hotel	Hotels	—	02376 262	£500	March 12
Protecto	Research	—	0202 747905	£500	May 31
Unicorn Heritage	Royal Brit Exhib	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£3,000	March 10
FUNDS					
Cave 1985/87 Fund	Small Companies	Capital Ventures	0242 584380	£3,000	March 31
Country Landowners	Rural Companies	CLA	01-630 5611	£2,000	Feb 13
Marble VC	Venture Capital	—	021 2333404	£2,500	Open-ended
Second Abbey Syndicate	New Companies	Abbey	0202 297621	£3,000	Feb 28
Second Johnson Fry	Small Companies	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£1,000	April 5
South Alpha BES	High Growth Cos	—	0483 83555	£1,000	Feb 18
Southern BES	Southern Cos	Pointon York	01-531 3015	£1,000	March 16

* Likely to close on this date
* Likely to be extended

FIDELITY'S NEW EUROPEAN INCOME TRUST

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DAILY TELEGRAPH 3.1.87

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The Trust is designed to exploit the investment opportunities of European markets, a number of which have moved into a more mature growth phase whilst others still offer strong recovery potential.

Our income-led portfolio strategy provides investors with two important virtues.

Firstly, and this is the exciting key investment dynamic, our strategy seeks to spotlight the recovery of lesser-known undervalued stocks. So investors can benefit from much greater potential capital appreciation.

Secondly, the above-average yield affords sound protection in the event of any market correction.

Fidelity has particular expertise in investing in unfashionable and undervalued stocks which later rise in price as other investors begin to recognise their value. The success of this investment philosophy has again been recognised in 1986 by two important industry performance awards —

Money Magazine's 'Unit Trust Managers of the Year' and The Daily Telegraph 'Unit Trust Managers Competition'.

Fidelity, the European Specialists.

Today, with 17 years' active investment in these markets, and responsibility for over £2.4 bn worth of European securities, Fidelity is one of the largest international groups investing in Europe. Last year alone we visited over 400 companies.

This weight of investment and depth of research provides us with the investment knowledge so important in identifying recovery stocks and undervalued companies, long before they gain a more public eye.

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Another reason why Fidelity is now widely regarded as one of Britain's most consistent top performing unit trust groups.

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Europe accounts for one third of the free world's economy but its markets are still largely undervalued. For example, Europe has a total Gross Domestic Product almost twice that of Japan, but a stock market capitalisation which is barely half. This undervaluation, together with the relative attractiveness of Europe compared with other major economies, means that the inflow of international pension money continues to rise strongly. Moreover, domestic institutional investment is also becoming significantly more active in Europe.

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Signature.....

(If more than one applicant all must sign)

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FAMILY MONEY/4

The investors' dream month

UNIT TRUSTS

January proved to be something of an investors' dream, as most stock markets took their lead from Wall Street and roared ahead.

The Dow Jones Index put on around 14 per cent over the month, smashed through the 2000 barrier, and established new highs day after day in some of the most frenzied activity many analysts can remember.

The nature of the US tax system meant a lot of year-end selling, so liquidity was high both in the personal and institutional sectors.

Why all this pent-up cash and more should come piling back into the market in January, however, remains something of a mystery.

Wall Street-watchers eventually gave up trying to rationalize the situation, which, to many, seemed to defy logic.

Whereas the last period of buoyancy on Wall Street has its foundations in take-over and speculative situations, January's surge was more broadly based, holding out some hope for a more sustained rise.

One sector to do particularly well, though, was technology, which has been a disappoint-

ing one for many investors in recent times.

US-invested unit trusts moved up the performance charts somewhat, though many still languish near the bottom over the longer time scales.

Gains of more than 10 per cent were fairly common with the sector headed by Target and Sentinel's technology vehicles, which put on 17.2 per

cent and 16.3 per cent respectively.

Most other stock markets joined in the euphoria, notably our own, where the FTA All-Share Index put on more than 8 per cent during the month.

Only a handful of gilt-invested unit trusts out of nearly 500 trusts invested in the UK as a whole, failed to make a profit and, as in the United States, gains of 10 per

cent or more were widespread.

The major exception to the booming stock market scene was West Germany, where the strength of the currency against the US dollar outweighed all other considerations.

Being one of the largest components of most European fund portfolios, losses on the West German market dragged down the performance of many funds in this hitherto successful sector, and Europe was probably the one black spot in a generally bright unit trust picture.

Currency appreciation was also a factor in Japan where the market was depressed for the first couple of weeks as the yen hardened.

Japanese investors, however, shrugged off these fears when the possibility of concerted action on interest rates was mooted, and the Nikkei Dow Index bounced back to end the month at another high point.

Some idea of January's conditions can be gained from the following statistics. Of 997 unit trusts invested in all corners of the world and with all sorts of investment objectives, only 61 failed to make a profit last month.

Over the same period 135 funds made a gain of 10 per cent or more.

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Value of £100 as at February 1, 1987

THE BEST			
One Year		Three Years	
Sentinel Euro Income	229.3	FS Balanced Growth	515.0
County Japan Growth	222.2	Baring First Europe	312.8
Legal & Gen Far East	211.5	TR Smaller Companies	298.6
Sun Life Far East Growth	199.4	Murray European	291.2
Brown Shipley Recovery	187.8	TR Special Opps	284.1
Eagle Star Far East	184.1	Mercury European Growth	272.9
Wardley Japan	183.1	County Japan Growth	272.6
TR Japan Growth	184.6	Brown Shipley Recovery	270.4
Wardley Pacific Perf	181.7	Hill Samuel European	268.9
Mercury Japan	181.3	M&G European & General	268.7
* Average	135.6	* Average	174.8
THE WORST			
One Year		Three Years	
MIM Brit Int Income	98.6	County Energy	87.5
LAS North American Equity	96.5	Rowntree MacIntosh	85.4
Atlanta Amer Spec Growth	96.5	Barrington World Tech	84.0
31 Smaller Companies	95.0	31 Smaller Companies	83.3
Bridge Int Recovery	94.8	Sentinel American Tech	81.8
Canada Growth	94.0	Target Commodity	81.0
Tyndall Aust Securities	93.8	Schroder Sing & Malay	80.8
Henderson Amer Recovery	91.9	Canada Growth	79.9
Abbey US Emerging Cos	91.3	Tyndall Aust Securities	77.8
Lawson American Growth	88.5	MIM Brit Int Income	82.6

Offer to bid basis

Net income reinvested

Source: Plannet Savings

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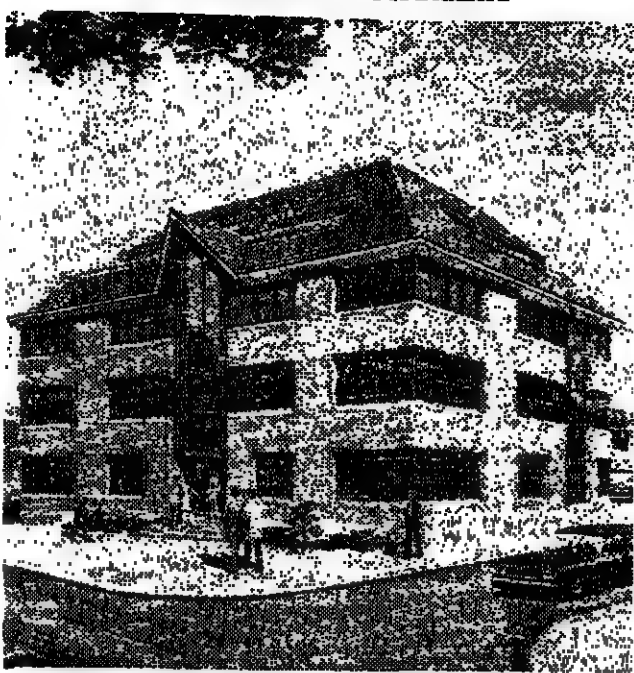
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This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for shares.



Unicorn Heritage directors: from left, Adrian Giffin, Gyles Brandreth and the Earl of Bradford



Building up: artist's impression of an air-conditioned office block at Richmond, Surrey, planned by Gladding

Continued from previous page
sequently sells them. It also
engages in forestry manage-
ment and other related
business.

Readers should bear in
mind that two of the directors
have options over 25 per cent
of the company which are
exercisable before 1993 at
£1.50. That is 10p less than
outside investors are being
asked to pay now.

The management team cer-
tainly appears to be experi-
enced in the business the
company is undertaking. It
also has age on its side - one
of the executive directors is 44
and the other 45.

Gladding Secured Con-
tractors is coming back for
more BES money, having
previously raised £5 million
from 1,300 shareholders. It
already has an order book
worth more than £5 million
and even more orders are in
negotiation.

The profits so far have
derived from interest on the
£5 million it raised, rather
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profits of £912 million.

And that's only three of the
selected companies considered by
Henderson for its new Best of British
Trust. As Britain's economy continues
to grow at an ever-increasing rate, these
are the companies that we believe will
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HOW ARE THE COMPANIES
CHOSEN?

We set up a special team of experts to
study Britain's best known companies. The final selec-
tion has been based on two criteria: past performance and
projected growth. The result is an élite amongst the élite.

WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF THE FUND?

The portfolio is selected for secure,
long-term growth. As with any unit trust, Best
of British pools investors' contributions to
buy into the shares of the chosen companies.
The portfolio is then constantly re-
evaluated, updated and revised by
Henderson's highly experienced invest-
ment managers, whose main objective is to
increase your capital.

CAN I BE SURE OF
SUCCESS?

Let's start with the name Henderson itself - one of the
most respected in the City.

We've invested money successfully for over 50 years.
Today, with over £5500 million currently under our manage-
ment, no company is better equipped to design a trust as
special as this one.

Unit trust prices, and the income from them, can go
down as well as up.

But it's worth noting that last year, the top 100
companies showed an average return of 13.7% on
investors' money (as measured by the FT SE 100 Index
- to 1/12/86). By comparison, a building
society ordinary share account, over the
same period (with all interest re-
invested) averaged 6.3%.

HOW LITTLE? HOW MUCH?

You can get started for a lump sum invest-
ment as small as £400. Or you can invest from
£25 a month on a regular basis.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

The fastest way is to send in this coupon
with your cheque. Or talk to your professional
adviser about how Best of British could suit
your financial needs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Distributions of income will be paid on 1st January
and 1st July, the first payment being on 1st July 1987. The
estimated gross annual yield is 2.45% (p.2.87).

Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates
will be provided within five weeks of payment. To sell units
endorse your certificate and send it to the managers; payment
based on the ruling bid price will normally be made within seven
working days.

Unit trusts are not subject to capital gains tax
unless a unitholder will not pay this tax on a disposal
of units unless his total taxable gains from all sources in
the tax year amount to more than the annual exemption
limit (£6,300-1986/7). Prices and yields can be found daily in the national press.
An initial charge of 5% of the assets (equivalent to 5% of the issue
price) is made by the managers and is included in the price of units when issued.
Out of the initial charge, managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries,
rates available on request.

An annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust will be deducted from the gross income to
cover administration costs, with a provision in the Trust Deed to increase this to a maximum of 3% on giving three
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Trustee: Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Unit Trust Service, 42 Lillingdon High Street, London N1 8XL.
Manager: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd., 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA. Registered
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mum £25) in Henderson's Best of British Trust, and enclose a cheque for
the first month's investment payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management
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to invest both a lump sum and a monthly subscription.

Joint applicants must both sign and attach full names and addresses separately.
This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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Surname _____

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Signature _____ Date _____

My Professional adviser is _____



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NO. 1 AGAIN!

The latest unit trust performance figures show County Japan Growth Trust as having the best performance of any unit trust over the year to 30th January 1987. £1000 invested twelve months ago had grown to £2252, representing a staggering 125.2% increase.*

The Trust has been consistently top in its sector and now it is again the top industry performer—and top by a substantial amount, having out-performed its nearest rival by 10.5%.

COUNTY'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

The Fund Manager believes that a fundamental restructuring in the Japanese domestic economy is now taking place which gives the trust considerable long term growth potential, making it an investment opportunity not to be missed in 1987.

It should be remembered however that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

The County Japan Growth Trust aims to provide good long term capital growth.

Our investment strategy is based on an in-depth understanding of technical analysis and of the demographic factors now influencing the Japanese economy.

We believe that Japan is still at an early stage in its long term structural transition. Its maturing infrastructure is now in need of modernisation, which is likely to pressurize the government into accelerating measures to rationalise and improve it. This, in conjunction with measures to encourage new elements in consumer demand such as housing and furnishings, should boost the domestic economy.

In addition, a high level of liquidity, no inflation and very low interest rates make Japan a market with a very positive future.

INVEST NOW—FOR GROWTH

To take advantage of this opportunity either phone our direct dealing service on:

01-726 1999

—or complete the coupon and send it to us with your cheque.

*Prices calculated on an offer to bid price basis with income reinvested 30/1/86-30/1/87. This performance should not be necessarily regarded as a guide to longer term growth.

The purchase price on 5/2/87 was 232.8p per unit, and the estimated annual gross yield was 0.53%.

(Source: IDC Opal.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contract notes will be issued within 7 days; certificates within 42 days. The prices and yield are published daily in leading national newspapers. You can sell units back to the Managers on any business day at the Bid Price ruling on receipt of your instructions. An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of units.

Remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries—rates available on request. The annual charge is 1% per annum (VAT) of the Trust value which is deducted from the Trust's gross income.

The income distribution will be made annually on 1st November to unitholders registered by the 1st September. Trustees: County Unit Trust Managers Ltd.

Registered Office: Garrard House, 31 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7DX. Registered Number: 907310.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

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Post to: County Unit Trust Managers Ltd, 161 Cheapside, London EC2V 6EU. I/We wish to invest £ (min. investment £500) in the Japan Growth Trust at the offer price ruling on the day of receipt of my cheque, made payable to County Unit Trust Managers Limited.

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First names: (in full) _____

Address: (in full) _____

Date: _____ Signature(s): _____ am/We are over 18

Please tick here for automatic reinvestment of income ☐

Please tick here for details of the County Share Exchange Scheme ☐ UNITSAVE ☐

Please tick here for further information on the County Japan Growth Trust ☐

The NatWest Investment Bank Group

This offer is not available to residents of Eire.

TI 72

FAMILY MONEY/5

Get a little relief from your dipping shares



Starting today and continuing for the next few Saturdays, DANBY BLOCH and RAYMOND GODFREY will be advising on last-minute planning as the end of the tax year approaches.

April 5 is the end of the fiscal year 1986-87. April 6, therefore, is New Year's Day for the tax year 1987-88.

The curious timing relates to the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in the middle of the 18th century. Until then, March quarter day—March 25—had been the Government's financial New Year's Day.

In practical terms, because April 5 lands on a Sunday, the last date on which action can be taken in many cases is April 3, which is a Friday.

During the next few weeks, we shall be examining the many important areas where you should be reviewing your tax and financial affairs in order to decide whether and how you can take worthwhile action.

After April 5 it could be too late and in the case of many schemes you could easily miss out by not acting earlier. Take, for example, the rather dismal matter of losses that you might have incurred on certain types of investment. In many instances you will discover there are valuable tax reliefs for losses, which should provide you with a degree of solace.

For example, if you incurred a loss on shares in an unquoted trading company, you may be able to obtain relief against your income tax.

The shares must have become of negligible value (see below) or you must have incurred the loss when you disposed of them. Unfortunately, the income tax relief is not available if you originally purchased the shares; they must have been new shares, issued by the company, for which you subscribed.

However, if they were bought, you may still be able to obtain capital gains tax relief.

In a reasonable ploy to stop duplicating tax reliefs, the Government prevents people from claiming this kind of

income tax relief for Business Expansion Scheme shares.

The shares must be in a UK trading company that is not quoted on the Stock Exchange, although shares traded on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM), or the new Third Market, or the Over-the-Counter (OTC) Market, are not excluded from this favourable treatment.

You are permitted to offset the loss against your income for the tax year in which you made the disposals (or for which you claim that it became of negligible value). Alternatively, you can set the loss against your income for the following tax year.

Thus, if you lost £10,000 in

Even if an asset does not qualify for income tax relief, perhaps because it is quoted, it might well come under the umbrella of the capital gains tax loss relief.

The Inland Revenue in practice will confirm which quoted securities have become worthless, together with the year in which it was first agreed that they became negligible. Fortunately lists of these are published from time to time by tax publishers Tolley.

It is a good idea to keep a lookout to see if you own any of these shares—if you do, there could be an allowable loss for capital gains tax

made to an individual or company which is trading and it has to be used for the purpose of the trade.

Trade for these purposes includes a profession or vocation and it also effectively now includes let furnished holiday lettings. Although the borrower must be a UK resident, it is not necessary for his trade to be located in the UK.

You can claim the tax relief only if the loan has become recoverable. The inspector of taxes will almost certainly want evidence that the borrower cannot pay you back the money.

The relief can also arise if you guaranteed a loan made



qualifying shares in September 1986, you can claim the relief for 1986-87 or you can carry it forward to 1987-88. The decision will depend on your probable tax position in each of the two years. You do not need to make that particular decision until April 1989, because you have two full tax years from the end of the year of assessment for which the claim is being made.

This means that if you want to claim relief for 1984-85, you had better submit it (in writing) by April 5, 1987.

Assets are of "negligible value", if, broadly, they are worth considerably less than 5 per cent of their nominal value.

purposes which needs to be established. You have to put in a claim within two years of the tax year in which the asset became worthless or of negligible value. It is then treated as if it has been sold and reacquired at its market value in order to establish this loss.

Another area where you may be able to claim some relief is certain sorts of bad debts. If you lent money to help start up or develop a trading business, and it subsequently becomes clear that there is no chance that you will be able to recover the debt, you could claim the loan as a capital loss.

In order to qualify for this relief, the loan must have been

by a bank or other lender and you have been required to pay up under the guarantee.

So if you have such a business loan or you are proposing to make one, it is very important that you review the arrangements to make sure that you can claim this relief if the loan goes wrong.

If you do have a bad debt, remember that there is a time limit on the claim for tax relief. You must make this within two years of the end of the tax year in which either the loan becomes recoverable or in which you had to pay up under the guarantee.

Next week: Personal Pension Plans

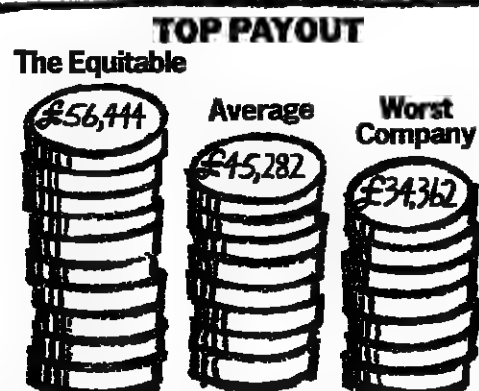
This year thousands will buy the wrong pension plan. Don't be one of them.

Last year we paid out 93% more pension for the same money to top executive policyholders retiring with an Equitable 10 year with profits pensions plan.*

That's how much the wrong decision could cost. Our remarkable table-topping performance (compared with our worst competitor) was paralleled by our achievement on behalf of self-employed people holding Equitable 20 year regular premium with profits policies.

They'd have been 64% better off with The Equitable! But proud as we are of these particular performances, the benefits they deliver are really of interest only to those prudent people who took out pension plans with us 10 or 20 years ago. What's important is how we'll be performing when you retire.

To assess this, you need to look at the long term track record of the company you intend to choose. You'll find no other company even approaches The Equitable's record of consistent excellence for such policies.



Personal pension fund from 20 year with profits policy, annual premium of £500 as published by Planned Savings November 1986. Figures refer to a self-employed man aged 65 retiring 1st September 1986.

For example, over the past 13 years, Planned Savings magazine's surveys of regular premium with profits policies for the self-employed show The Equitable gaining more first places than all other companies put together.

Of 20 tables covering 10 and 20 year policies, The Equitable has topped 11 and been second in 4 more.

Likewise, in Planned Savings' surveys of pensions for executives and directors, we are again far ahead of the field.

Out of 12 tables covering 5, 10 and 20 year regular premium with profits policies since 1981, The Equitable has been top 6 times and second 3 times more.

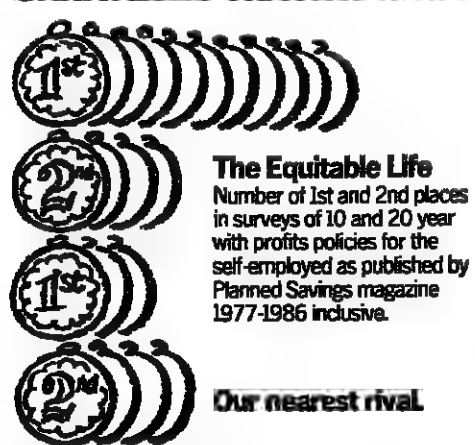
How do we sustain this extraordinary record?

First, by having one of the finest investment teams in the U.K.

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And finally, by never paying a penny of commission to brokers or middlemen, so that all your contributions start working for you right away.

UNRIVALLED TRACK RECORD



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If you'd like further details, please write to The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JT or call us direct on 01-606 6611 today.

*Planned Savings survey, July 1986. Male retiring at 65 on L5.86. †Planned Savings survey, November 1986. Male retiring at 65 on L9.86.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JT. I'd welcome further details on The Equitable's retirement plans. ☐ I am self-employed; ☐ I am an employee not in a company pension scheme; ☐ I want to top-up benefits from my company's pension scheme; ☐ I would also welcome details on retirement plans linked to investment funds. (U.K. residents only)

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Date of Birth _____

Tel: (Office) _____

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EXTRA UNITS UP TO 5th APRIL

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The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1969, with net income reinvested.					
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY	
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058	
1975	26,400	11,121	21,288	18,178	
1980	102,660	17,287	40,175	25,521	
1985	270,800	49,474	85,233	40,164	
1 Feb '87	440,320	64,343	57,112	43,503*	

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 1% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association).

M&G Recovery figures are all retail values. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION: On 31st February 1987 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Recovery Fund	444.5p	582.7p	2.99%
Dividend Fund	483.6p	1447.9p	4.74%
SECOND General	844.9p	1682.1p	3.38%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The difference between the offer price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell) is normally 5%. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price and an annual charge of 1% of each Fund's value—currently 1.2% plus VAT—is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and/or income units are distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
	20 Aug	15 July	15 Aug
Next distribution for new investors	20 Feb 1987	15 Jan 1987	15 Feb 1987

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks after. Remittance is payable to accredited agents, rules are available on request. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Bank of London Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Leeds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1LF. Tel: 0215 265265.

Advisory Services: Unit 01-626 4538.

Write to: The Unit Trust Association.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1987 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1LF. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (if applicable) or DIVIDEND units (if applicable). I agree to pay the 5% initial charge and the 1.2% plus VAT charge on receipt of the application. I DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY (if applicable) £ -00- SURNAME _____

DIVIDEND (if applicable) £ -00- ADDRESS _____

SECOND (if applicable) £ -00- POST CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____ M&G

DATE _____

THE M&G GROUP

FAMILY MONEY/6

How Man values his best friend

DOGS

With the annual Crufts Show scheduled to take place next week, ARDA LACEY checks out the costs of keeping a dog

Surely no price can be set on the true value of Man's Best Friend. But according to a well-known breeder of Afghan hounds a pure-bred dog at eight weeks will cost £100 in monetary terms.

A show dog could cost considerably more. However, when you buy a pup at eight weeks, there is no guarantee that it will turn out to be show quality.

The breeder will pick out a good prospect based on knowledge of the breed, but usually a pup must reach six months or more before one can assess its real potential.

Buying a dog should be a long-term commitment. Dogs need time and training and are not suitable for households where both partners go out to work, or for the ultra-housebound.

Of course, even buyers with the best intentions can choose in haste only to discover within months that literally they have been "sold a pup".

The Kennel Club at 1-4 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1Y 8AB, issues an informative leaflet, *Purchasing a Dog*, which is worth perusal. It emphasizes the need for prospective purchasers to ensure, before completing a transaction, that the dog has been registered, or at least the litter recorded, at the Kennel Club.

When you buy your dog the breeder should give you a signed pedigree certificate. You should also receive a signed transfer of ownership form. Send it to The Kennel Club with a £5 fee, and the new ownership will be officially recorded in your name.

Is going to the expense of recording the transfer necessary? Frankly, no. But omit to do so and you could miss a lot of fun.

For instance, you would be ineligible to enter your dog in show classes, other than at exemption shows in which exhibits do not have to be registered. And if you decided to breed from your bitch or offer your dog at stud, you would experience difficulty in getting the going rate.



It is worth noting that it is more economical to take your dog to the vet than to expect him to visit you. There is often a call-out charge of £10 or even more.

Allow a weekly feeding bill of £2 for a toy dog, £5 for a medium-size dog, and £10 to £15 for a large one. These sums refer to proprietary brands of tinned food and dog biscuits.

The chihuahua or Yorkshire terrier is, therefore, a much better financial proposition, if you are counting the pennies, than either the medium-sized beagle or spaniel or, at the top end of the scale, a Great Dane.

Joining a dog training club could cost, say, £8.50 for a course of half a dozen weekly sessions. Or you may be asked to pay a joining fee, perhaps £1.50, and a small charge per session of about 50p.

Of course, you may prefer to send your dog to a professional trainer to learn its manner and that could cost £100 or more for a residential course.

Holiday periods must be accounted for. Many more hotels are accepting dogs when holiday bookings are made, but don't take the facility for granted. Prices can range from nothing at all, where owners bring their own canine provisions, to £5 or £6, where food is provided.

If you wish to leave your dog in kennels, its vacation could be almost as costly as your own. Reckon on a minimum charge of £3 a day with £4.75 nearer the average in Greater London.

If you are determined to buy a dog, the Kennel Club publishes the names and addresses of breeders in its monthly journal, *The Kennel Gazette* (85p including postage), and a visit to Crufts Dog Show at Earls Court, (February 12-15) is a must, offering the chance to watch beauty, obedience and agility classes, speak to breeders and wander round the trade stands.

Dogs, for ease of classification, are traditionally shown in groups according to the purpose for which they were bred. Therefore it is important to go along on the right day: Thursday, February 12, Working Group; Friday, February 13, Toy and Utility Group; Saturday, February 14, Gundog Group; Sunday, February 15, Terrier and Hound Group, and Best in Show judging.

More hotels now accept dogs when holidays are booked

There are other costs the new dog owner must expect to contend with.

Inoculation fees will set you back anything up to £40, including VAT, for initial vaccinations against killer diseases. It is sheer madness not to allow a pup such protection.

Veterinary fees generally will depend on the area where you live. Charges are based on the upkeep of a surgery, so don't berate your Sloane-type vet if he charges you more than his contemporary in a rural northern town.



The dog show: a pleasant social occasion, but it costs

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(If joint applications, all applicants must sign and attach their names and addresses.)

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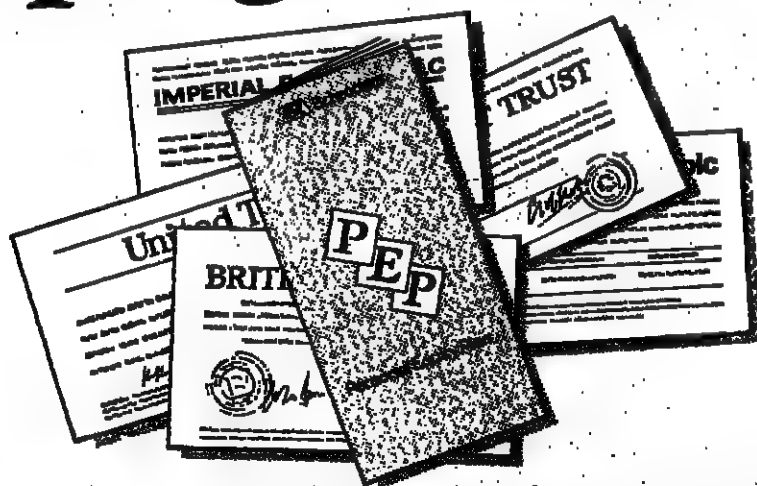
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TOUCHE REMNANT

TR EUROPEAN SPECIAL SITUATIONS FUND

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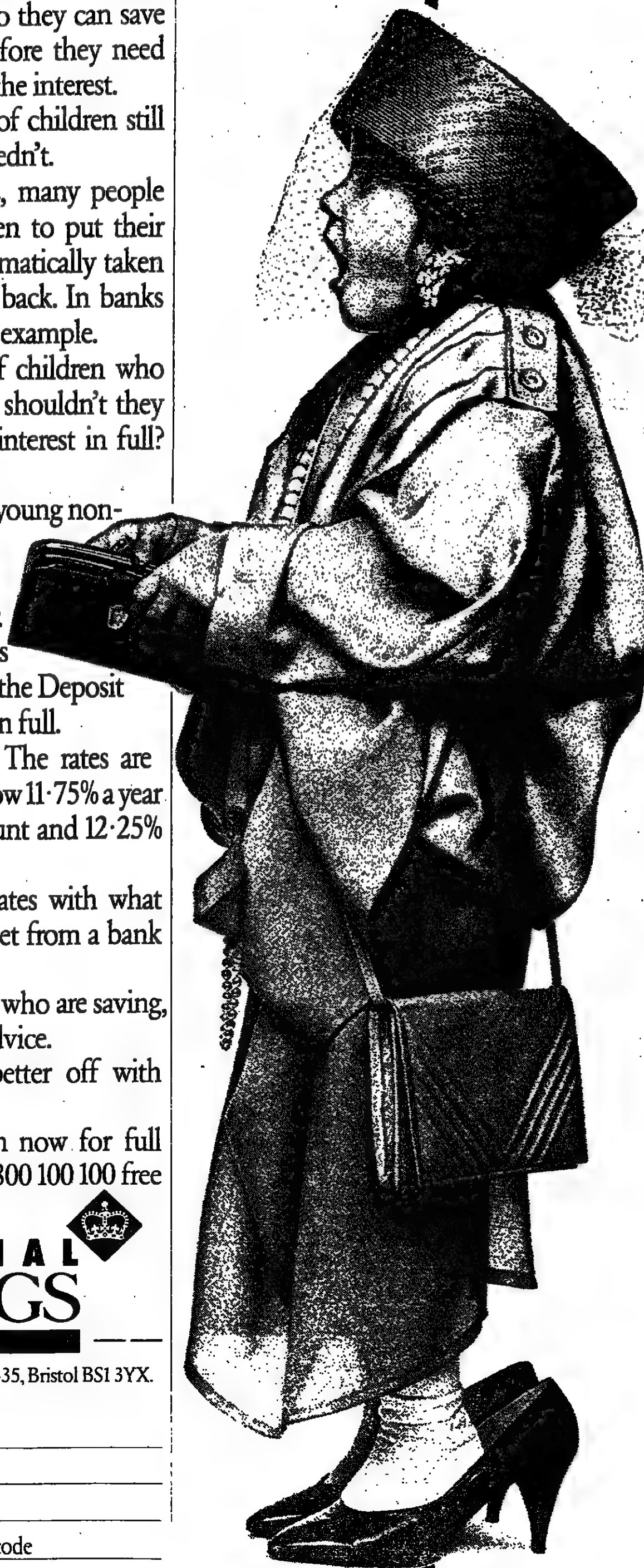
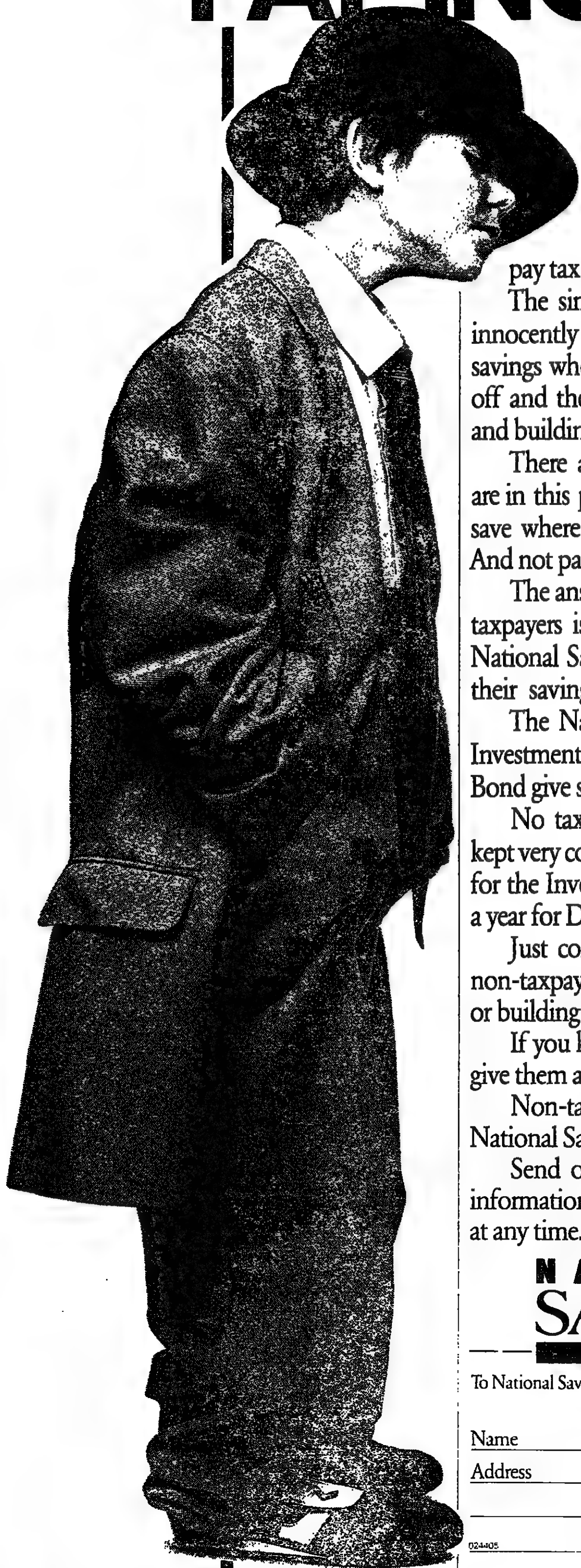
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FAMILY MONEY/7

Nicholas Cole looks at the love letters of the famous and Conal Gregory previews a sentimental sale of Valentine cards

The rare signs of profit

Famous people are regularly under the hammer in London these days. In Valentine month, autograph collectors, known as "the big name hunters", are paying small fortunes to possess anything from old love letters to historic literature.

Napoleon's page-scorching *billets-doux* to Josephine de Beauharnais - "...near you I regret that it is not always light" - would be virtually priceless, as would the erotopathological missives of Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn, were they ever to be disposed of by the Vatican.

In the past two years, a long-lost letter from Beethoven to the only woman he loved has fetched £55,000, while the amorous confessions of the essayist William Hazlitt ("This impotent sensualist" thundered *The Times*, his erstwhile employer), and rare correspondence between George IV and his clandestine wife, Maria Fitzherbert, featured among 560 lots in a Sotheby's auction that realised more than £1.4 million.

Letters of or relating to English royalty are also prominent in the *cognegies* of the late collector-dealer John Badcock due to come up at Christie's South Kensington on February 26. The letters include one penned by a maid of the Duchess of Windsor containing piquant contemporary observations about her mistress's annoyance with the intrusion of World War Two into her social life.

Although the major autograph auctions take place in mid-summer and mid-winter, it is probable that the Christie's sale will continue the trend of record prices, for some items at least.

By including material as diverse as Alice B. Toklas letters and Goon Show scripts annotated by Spike Milligan, the forthcoming sale confirms

the steady expansion of collectors' appetites.

Twenty years ago, curious such as George Bernard Shaw's postcard reply to a party invitation - "I couldn't tolerate it" - could command a respectable £150, but were beyond the pale in the eyes of serious collectors.

Characteristically on the trail of Shakespeare First Folios and early Biblical texts, these denizens of academe hated to admit the existence of genre collecting - the acquisition of books, letters and other material in categories that notably included prominent admirals, aviators, sovereigns and statesmen.

This helped to depress values, enabling keen amateur collectors such as Ray Rawlins to snap up bundles of famous-name correspondence at prices that would be demanded today for a single letter. Rawlins died several

years ago, having amassed 15,000 ancient and modern autographs, among the rarest of which he claimed was the 1495 signature of 16-year-old Lucrezia Borgia.

Because some items consisted solely of signatures on documents with no inherent historical significance or interest, doubt has since been cast on Rawlins's reputation

A good hedge against inflation

as "the doyen of British autograph collectors".

But he probably did more than any other authority to popularize the pursuit and make it acceptable to spend £26 on acquiring a Christmas card bearing the Queen's signature, or £30 on a Richard Nixon letter - his signature trebled in value the day he resigned as President.

Hard on the heels of "fun" collectors chasing novelty ("Who's this guy Gordon? I've got to have a Gordon") came those who were not terribly bothered whether *The Prisoner of Chillon* had been written by Byron or the local butcher so long as it produced a return. It did: £13,500.

Discerning dealers such as Maggs, Myers and Quaritch in London and El Dieff in New York feel uncomfortable talking about the investment appeal of autograph documents, preferring to think in terms of the interest shown by cultural institutions such as museums and university libraries.

However, autograph collecting as a hedge against inflation has been hard to beat. Few transactions illustrate this better than the sale of 17 books *ex libris* Elizabeth I; they fetched £77,000 at



Goon notes from Milligan and love notes from Beethoven

Sotheby's in December. During Cromwell's interregnum, they were valued at just £14.

Should all this imply a market closed to ordinary mortals, it is worth noting that "entry" prices do not habitually end in three noughts; plenty of potentially worthwhile material is available from £250, or less if one avoids the big auctions.

People who suspect they have something worth selling should not feel diffident about seeking an expert opinion - demand has been demonstrated for an amazing variety of material, literally anything from obsolete legal



Goon notes from Milligan and love notes from Beethoven

documents to first-day cover stamps signed by John Stoenhouse.

Any decision to buy or sell should be carefully considered. The traditional prerequisites of age, greatness and scarcity can still apply, but so can the market's notorious capriciousness as well.

When the autograph manuscript of Wagner's opera *Tannhäuser* netted £110,000 some years ago, the overture remained unsold at £24,000; and though the sea-stained log of Captain Bligh after he was cast adrift from HMS *Bounty* achieved £55,000, Drake's account of personal expenses in defeating the Armada failed to reach its £6,500 reserve. Roughly speaking, it did not pass the "So what?" test that separates the merely interesting from the compelling.

Sure winners are items that excite the market's imagination with revelations - such as the recently discovered letters of Constance (Mrs Oscar) Wilde disclosing her secret passion for a bookshop manager - or those that fill more important gaps in history.

Thus, leading politicians' private letters about the Falklands War or the miners' strike could be worth acquiring. The same applies to manuscript drafts of present-day literary figures - and the letters of murderers and dictators.

These always find buyers, though the "taste" factor has kept prices down. Sooner or later, like so much other material in the market of the "sign language", they must surely boom. NC

Words of romance up for sale

Valentine, patron saint of lovers, inspires both sweethearts and collectors of love tokens as February 14 draws closer. Since the Middle Ages, the annual exchange of gifts has been common, but it was not until the end of the 18th century that sending cards caught on.

Nowadays Valentines have become a collector's sector and a major sale to show the strength of the market takes place on Wednesday - three days before the Day - at Phillips, 7 Beak Street, off New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AS.

In the 1820s lacy examples were popular. Many were made by the 18th-century technique of gridding paper with a pin to produce pictures. De La Rue's invention of an envelope-making machine, shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851, expanded the market with the development of ready-made envelopes.

Much interest today lies with the novelty items of the second half of the 19th century. Mechanical, comic pop-up and even insulting Valentines were sold

with trinkets, such as small mirrors and tiny bottles of perfume.

Paul Pease-Stinkins, of Phillips, has catalogued more than 400 Valentines for the sale. The cards range from the exotic, ornately decorated and mechanical cards of the early 19th century to a selection of art deco cards of the 1920s and 1930s.

For as little as £30, a Victorian paper-lace Valentine, hand-painted and decorated with moss, flowers and shells, can be secured, bearing the words "A Pearly Treasure". A later card, from 1877, is a fine example of "Beehive" cards. It shows a flock on the branch of a tree, which when pulled upwards by a tiny card, lifts in a beehive-shaped spiral to reveal two grey mice. The estimate is £30-£100.

Many Valentines in the sale are unused and in mint condition. Most are sold with their original envelopes. Where cancelled by the Post Office, the detail is recorded in the catalogue, as in lot 79, which was sent in Ipswich in 1889, is

hand-painted and depicts a "map of matrimony". The estimate is £20-£30.

Antique shops are increasingly reporting demand for Valentines. An example is the sailor's Valentine, circa 1840-50. It was a love token from the South Sea Islands given by sailors. A pair of double tokens, one saying "Home Again" in shell, the other depicting roses and hearts in shell, are on offer at £750 each through the London dealer, Rogers de Rin, of 16 Royal Hospital Road, Paradise Walk, Chelsea.

The charm in the pictures, many depicting costumes of the period, and the sentimental verses are a study in their own right. It is also possible to start a collection of "black" Valentines carrying derogatory images and messages, although fewer have survived.

A final tip is to look for the envelope if the Valentine has been posted, as the value will be enhanced by older dates. The envelopes also show that it was not unusual to post and receive on the actual day! CG

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FAMILY MONEY/8

Bigger BA share for the public

The British Airways share offer closed yesterday and initial indications were that the 25 per cent chunk of shares set aside for UK private investors was three to five times over-subscribed.

The big demand among UK private investors will trigger a clawback clause in the offer whereby the number of shares available for purchase by UK private investors is increased at the expense of UK institutions and overseas buyers.

Even though the number available to UK private investors could rise to as much as 43 per cent of the total offer, the shares now look certain to open at a significant premium when official dealings begin next Wednesday. Yesterday afternoon, licensed dealers Cleveland Securities were buying 65p partly paid shares at 87p and selling at 92p. Cleveland says that until next Wednesday it will deal only with institutions, not individuals, on a minimum transaction of £25,000.

Merchant bank F&H Samuel, which is handling the sale offer on the Government's behalf, was yesterday coordinating the share application count that will continue today.

An announcement about the basis of allocation may be made at the weekend, and although the Government still wants to avoid a ballot for the shares, the possibility cannot be ruled out. Letters of allocation are due to be posted out on February 16.

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has already sensed that there will be a great many disappointed BA share applicants. C&G is resurrecting a service which it claims was popular with the British Gas share issue. C&G investors will be able to pay their returned share cheques back into their accounts.

Peter Gartland

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Return of tax rates			Min/max		Contact
	25%	45%	60%	investment £	Notice	
BANKS						
Deposit A/c	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1587
Barclays	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1500
National Westminster	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-726 1000
Midland	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-260 8000
TSB	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 8000
National Girobank!	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6020
Fixed Term Deposits:						
National Westminster	7.63	5.91	4.30	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.38	5.72	4.16	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.13	5.52	4.02	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
Midland	7.01	5.43	3.95	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
"	6.91	5.35	3.89	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-260 8000
"	6.82	5.28	3.84	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary A/c	6.00	4.65	3.38	1 min	—	—
MONEY FUNDS						
Atkins Hume Monthly Income	7.66	5.93	4.32	1,000 min	—	01-638 6070
Bank of Scotland	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min	—	01-626 8060
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.13	5.52	4.02	1,000 min	—	01-626 1587
Britannia High Interest	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min	—	01-588 2777
Henderson Money Mkt Cheq A/c	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min	—	01-638 5757
Lloyds HICA	7.70	5.96	4.34	2,500 min	—	01-626 1800
M&G HICA	7.56	5.86	4.26	2,500 min	—	01-626 4588
Midland HICA	7.45	5.77	4.20	2,000 min	—	0742 52800
Net West High Int Special Res	7.63	5.91	4.30	2,000 min	—	01-726 1000
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt A/c	7.78	6.01	4.37	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 8362
Royal Bank of Scotland Prem A/c	7.75	6.00	4.37	2,500 min	—	031-5570201
S & P Call	7.50	5.81	4.02	500-1,000 min	—	0706 66666
Schroder Wagg	7.48	5.80	4.22	2,500 min	—	0705 827733
Tullet & Riley Call	7.96	6.17	4.48	1,000 min	—	01-236 8362
Tullet & Riley 7-day	7.93	6.14	4.47	2,500 min	7 day	01-234 9362
Tyndall Call	7.97	6.17	4.48	2,500 min	—	0272 732241
Tyndall 7-day	7.87	6.10	4.44	2,500 min	7 day	0272 732241
UDT 7-day	7.84	6.07	4.42	5,000 min	7 day	01-626 4081
Western Trust	7.85	6.08	4.42	2,500 min	1 mth	0752 261161
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Investment A/c	8.34	6.48	4.70	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
Indexed Income Bond*	5.68	4.40	3.20	5,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
32nd Issue Certificate	8.75	6.75	4.95	25-5,000	8 day	0385 64900
Yearly Plan	8.84	6.84	4.94	20-200 a mth	14 day	0385 64900
General Extension Rate	8.70	6.70	4.90	—	—	—
Retail Prices Index*	—	—	—	—	—	—
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Financial Planning Services	10.1	8.48	6.97	1,000 min	1 yr	0992 30488
Financial Planning Services	10.0	8.45	7.00	1,000 min	2 yrs	0992 30488
Financial Planning Services	10.0	8.51	7.06	1,000 min	3 yrs	0992 30488
Financial Planning Services	10.0	8.54	7.14	1,000 min	4 yrs	0992 30488
Premium Life	8.60	6.66	4.85	1,000 min	5 yrs	0444 458721
FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS						
Sterling	10.03	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
US Dollar	5.21	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
Yen	3.12	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
D Mark	3.41	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
French Franc	7.74	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
Swiss Franc	1.70	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
*Interest Taxable, paid gross †Tax free (†) Other banks may differ (†) Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2% per cent above ordinary accounts (†) Increased at end of year in line with rate of inflation (†) December RPI figure 393.0 (†) Rates for higher rate taxpayers may differ according to type of bond and above rates should be reduced by 10% for lower rate taxpayers						
Research: Deborah Benn (01-622 9068)						

Interest Taxable, paid gross (Tax free) (1) Other banks may differ (2) Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2 per cent above ordinary accounts (3) Increased at end of year in line with rate of inflation (4) December 1991 figure 383.0 (5) Rates for higher rate taxpayers may differ according to type of bond and above rates should be taken as a general guide only. Research: Deborah Benn (01-822 9082)

Portfolio Gold

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 25).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
1st	+6	+5	+6	+8	+7																										
2nd	+6	+4	+3	+4	+9																										
3rd	+4	+2	+3	+3	+6																										
4th	+4	+3	+2	+4	+5																										
5th	+7	+5	+3	+5	+5																										
6th	+3	+4	+1	+5	+4																										
7th	+7	+6	+2	+3	+3																										
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34th	+6	+4	+6	+7	+5																										
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38th	+6	+6	+2	+3	+7																										
39th	+7	+3	+3	+5	+5																										
40th	+3	+3	+3	+3	+5																										
41st	+7	+3	+6	+4	+7																										
42nd	+6	+3	+3	+3	+8																										
43rd	+4	+4	+3	+4	+3																										
44th	+3	+2	+5	+4	+6																										

When compensation order is not applicable

Regina v Boardman
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Patten and Mr Justice Roper

[Judgment February 6]

and Professor Ian
in the chair. **7.00** Martin
by Charles Dickens
and Todgers. **8.00**
Presented by Susan

report from around the world.
4.30 Science Now.
5.00 The Living World: A
Winter in Wales: Celtic secrets of
fertility. 5.30 Week Ending.
Satirical look at the week's news.

software technology 6: Designed
by Computer 4.30 Franc-
Parler: Conversational French
programme (6) 6.00 Deutsch
Express! German course (5) 5.30
Por Agui (15).

software technology 6: Designed
by Computer 4.30 Franc-
Parler: Conversational French
programme (6) 6.00 Deutsch
Express! German course (5) 5.30
Por Agui (15).

facing page

1.00 The World This Weekend.
News 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News.

With A Whale. Denys Gueroult
explores the amazing variety of
mechanical musical instruments

Express! A second-stage
German course (5) 5.30
Buongiorno Italia! (5)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.8kHz/285m; 108.9kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 809kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF-90:
92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92-95; LBC: 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97-3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; BBC Radio London:
1458kHz/209m; VHF 94-9; World Service: MF 648kHz/463m.

England's one-day experience can bring grand slam

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Sydney

In spite of having won the Ashes and carried off the Perth Challenge, England may go into the first of the World Series Cup finals in Melbourne tomorrow as marginal outsiders. The reason for this is simple enough: in winning the last Test match and three of their four WSC qualifiers against England, Australia have looked the fresher side and shown the livelier form.

Three finals are scheduled, the third of them to be played only if the first two are shared. Tomorrow's is a day match, the others (next Wednesday in Sydney and the following Friday in Melbourne) are day-night. There is the certainty of large crowds; but it would not do for them to be too confident of seeing Australia avenge their Ashes defeat. From now on there will be no half-measures in the way England aim to round off their tour. They spent yesterday, as they will today, purging themselves of their recent indifference.

In two departments Australia may expect to have an advantage worth perhaps 25 runs a match: they run more eagerly between the wickets and, because several of the Englishmen have difficulty throwing, they have been fielding better. The most effective slow bowler in the tournament has not been Embury, though he did finish off Tuesday's match against West Indies in Devonport with three wickets in an over, but Matthews.

Australia are playing with plenty of confidence as a result of having moved from the foot of the WSC table, with dangerously little chance of qualifying for the finals, to finish first. After losing three of their first four matches they won the last four in a row.

But England have too many good cricketers, experienced in the one-day game, not to fancy their chances of winning and so completing what has been dubbed the "grand slam" (the Test series and the two one-day competitions). They may restore Athey as Broad's opening partner and drop Botham down to number four. Gower has the right game for number three, but Lamb is too slow a starter these days, especially now that he is playing for his place, to be at number four. I should be inclined to have Lamb at five and Gattling, who has had a poor tournament with the bat, at six.

If Dilley can persuade himself he is fit and be persuaded

that he is needed (and Greenidge are almost as reluctant as each other to do this) he will presumably come back for the ever ready Foster. In the early WSC matches and more especially against West Indies in the Perth Challenge, Dilley bowled very well; but it is time he got back on to the field. "And the best of luck to the Westsiders physio" writes a friend from Kent.

In the inaugural year of the WSC Cup (1979-80) England lost to West Indies in the final, Australia having been left trailing. In 1982-83 Bob Willis's side failed to qualify, Australia beating New Zealand in the finals. I like to think that, for England, 1986-87 will be third time lucky. It should be; but the Melbourne and Sydney pitches are not the best on which to make confident predictions.

More cricket, page 37

Finals schedule

TOMORROW: First final (Melbourne), TV: BBC1 10.45 pm (Sat) 6.45 am (Sun).
FEB 11: Second final (Sydney, day-night), TV: BBC1 3.20-6.25 am; BBC2 7.00-9.05 am; BBC1 9.05-11.15 am.
FEB 12: (if required) Third final (Sydney, day-night), TV: BBC1 3.20-6.25 am; BBC2 7.00-9.05 am; BBC1 9.05-11.15 am.

Gavaskar boycott

From Richard Streeton, Madras

Sunil Gavaskar, who is only 82 runs short of becoming the first player to reach 10,000 runs in Test matches, has decided to miss next week's second Test match against Pakistan in Calcutta because of the crowd's behaviour to him on previous visits. Gavaskar's decision ends a world record sequence of 106 successive Test appearances.

"I know I am the only loser but I do not want to play in Calcutta again," was all Gavaskar would say. He notified the Indian selectors and Kapil Dev, the Indian captain, by letters after yesterday's play in the first Test.

Gavaskar will also be unavailable for the one-day international at Calcutta, which follows the Test match

there. The Indian board seem certain to try and persuade Gavaskar to change his mind but those closest to him think it unlikely they will succeed.

Gavaskar, a national idol in India, has always been harassed by the crowd at Eden Gardens more than anywhere else. Sometimes it has been for slow batting, other times for what spectators have felt to be captaincy decisions which ruined a game.

The last time England played there, in 1984-85, a section of the 80,000 crowd threatened him with violence after he delayed a declaration. He had to be smuggled out of the ground when the game ended. The present series with Pakistan is expected to be the last for Gavaskar.

Re-entry hopes are dashed by UEFA

By John Goodbody

UEFA yesterday confirmed that English clubs would not be re-admitted to the three European football competitions next season. Speculation that the Football Association and the Football League, eager to celebrate its centenary with a return to Europe, would together be able to persuade UEFA to relax their indefinite ban was rejected at UEFA headquarters in Bern.

The ban was imposed after the Liverpool-Juventus European Cup Final in Brussels in May, 1985, when a riot by fans led to 39 deaths.

"There is no question of English clubs playing in Europe next season," a spokesman reiterated. "The

Executive decided last autumn to continue the indefinite ban." Although the League and the FA are to try to make a joint submission to UEFA before an executive committee meeting on March 9, the spokesman said that the topic was not on the agenda.

On Thursday, Philip Carter, the president of the Football League, said: "We have not ruled out the possibility of a return for our clubs next season."

Two months ago, *The Times* quoted Jacques Georges, the UEFA president, as saying that although he was sympathetic to the English situation, it was his opinion and also that of the committee that 1987-88 was too soon.

Rangers to decide on appeal

By Hugh Taylor

Rangers' directors have called a special meeting today to decide whether the club will lodge an appeal against fines and suspensions imposed yesterday by the UEFA disciplinary committee in Zurich.

Following the turbulent UEFA Cup match against the West German club, Borussia Munchengladbach, two months ago, Rangers were fined 12,000 Swiss francs (£5,000) and had Stuart Munro, who was ordered off, suspended for four European matches.

The case of David Cooper, the international winger who was also dismissed, will be considered later.



Pin-ball Wizard skittled: Elton John joins England in the nets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground as they practice for the first match in the World Series Cup final

England forced to include Probyn for Irish game

From David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, Dublin

Paul Rendall, the Wasps prop whose doubtful hamstring injury persuaded England to add a further player, Jeff Probyn, to their squad before departure for Ireland on Thursday, took part in the final training session yesterday and was given a clean bill of health for today's Five Nations championship game at Lansdowne Road.

It will be his fifth cap but his first international appearance in Dublin where eight members of England's team have

played before, among them Richard Hill, the captain, who was a replacement two years ago. Coincidentally, Donal Lenihan will be captaining Ireland for the first time in the championship.

Hill, aged 25, remains unperturbed about his lack of experience. "As captain I'm confident everyone who's good on the field has to give everything," he said.

"We have been together for so long - we have been training as a squad since last

July - that the same feeling has developed which you get in a club side before a cup match. It was frustrating that we had to wait three weeks before playing (after the Calcutta Cup game was postponed in January) because you need a game to see where there are weaknesses. But in a way we have been fortunate since we have had another three weeks to prepare as a team."

There has been only one change to the side originally picked against Scotland, Paul Simpson moving to No. 8 where Dean Richards withdrew through injury, allowing for the inclusion of John Hall. Ireland, likewise, have had their team (as opposed to a larger squad) together for over a month, having selected that much earlier before the postponed game with Wales in Cardiff.

"In the past we have not prepared as thoroughly as we have for this match," Hill said. "We are asking players to take things upon themselves and if they don't come off, no one is going to criticize them."

Thorne races through

Willie Thorne found his best form of the season to reach the last eight of the £86,000 Tolly Ales English championship at Ipswich yesterday. Thorne, from Leicester, trailed Dave Martin 3-2 but hit back magnificently, taking four frames in a row in only 46 minutes to record a 6-3 victory.

"That's as well as I've played all season," Thorne said. "I could have had three or four breaks of more than a

hundred." Instead, Thorne had to settle for seven breaks of more than 50.

Also safely through to the quarter-finals is Les Dodd, ranked 69th in the world, who is enjoying the best spell of his career after losing more than five stones in weight. Dodd overcame Rotherham's Barry West 6-3 and said: "I weighed more than 20 stone but I've been going to a local weightwatchers' club since September

Ideals of the Boat Race just a myth



In an exclusive article for *The Times*, Jonathan Fish, the cox of the originally selected Oxford crew and one of the Americans who has now decided not to take part in the Boat Race, explains the background to the dispute

The mystique of the Boat Race throughout the world is that it represents honesty, fairness and sportsmanship. However, our experiences with the present Oxford University Boat Club hierarchy have not shown this to be true.

When we saw that the ideals were just a myth, the annual event became just another boat race, not the ultimate sporting occasion that it had been built up to be.

My team-mates, friends and especially my parents will be most proud of my decision not to participate because only they know how much I really wanted to beat Cambridge and earn my Blue.

The media coverage of the events of the last three weeks has given the impression that this was an American-led rebellion. This is far from the case. The head coach Dan Topolski has never given the rest of the members of the crew, especially the British rowers, any credit for independent thought.

The coaches present at the coaching panel must now realise that an injustice was done as a result of their decision. They must now appreciate that they were presented with misinformation and an inaccurate picture of the depth of feeling of the squad.

The problems began on Sunday, January 18, when president Donald Macdonald told members of the Oxford squad the line-up for the following day's practice; he made it clear they were to be the selected boats for the Boat Race. A member of the coaching staff was told he was to be coaching the final Isis boat (the reserve crew), which would include Tony Ward.

Squad felt Ward had earned place

Chris Clark was selected by the coaches to be in the Blue boat on bow side, by far his weaker side, to the exclusion of Ward, whom all squad members felt had earned a seat in the Boat Race crew.

The squad felt this to be a great injustice to Ward and would mean a reduction in boat speed. (Clark was excluded from the Blue boat only after collective action by the entire squad, who felt the selection process was unfair.)

On Monday, January 19, the crew rowed with Tony Ward and Chris Clark in the boat instead of Donald Macdonald. Mike Spracklen, probably the best coach in Britain and the sole coach to see the crew with both Macdonald and Clark in the two seats, spoke publicly of the

ridiculousness of the decision to sack Clark.

The coaching staff has to realise that, although Clark is a close friend of ours, we would not as competitors jeopardise months of training and being in the fastest boat to beat Cambridge simply because "we wanted to row with one of our buddies".

The fact that the crew interrupted training for two weeks and that five members of the selected Blue boat, regardless of their nationalities, have de-selected themselves should be indicative enough that there is a severe problem of leadership and communication.

Fastest line-up on the day

Clark has little responsibility for the action taken by the rest of the members of the boat in what would have been the fastest combination on Boat Race day.

We feel Clark, because of his outspokenness, was an easy target for Topolski and was used as a scapegoat by the coach to hide his frustration at not being able to earn respect and trust of his squad. He has made it seem that the rest of the squad are puppets of the Srengali Clark.

Topolski, who prides himself on being an international coach, will now have to live with the fact that in his last year as Oxford coach he failed to produce what could have been the fastest Boat Race crew ever.

Macdonald has also not kept the communication lines open. He showed his inability to lead by issuing ultimatums and deadlines. This was because the only thing he could offer the squad to make peace was to provide Clark with a fair chance to take Macdonald's own seat in the boat.

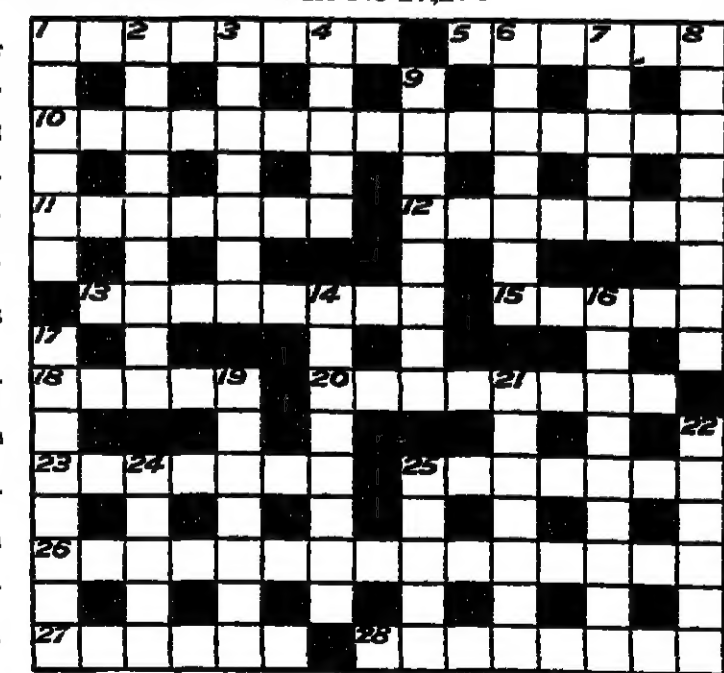
If Macdonald is, in fact, better than Clark, he should not have any difficulty in proving it to the rest of the squad. All we have ever asked for in Clark to be included in a fair selection process. We have not demanded, or have been portrayed, that Clark should be in the boat automatically.

It is still not too late for selection, since Macdonald told the crew on Wednesday that the selection process will continue.

It is one of the most prestigious honours in the world of rowing to be selected in the Blue boat. I would only hope that Dan Topolski, Donald Macdonald and the rest of the coaching staff would step forward and do what is right to get the fastest boat on the water.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,274

- ACROSS
- A barbarous language, the Pomeranian tongue? (3,3).
 - Party meeting when out of range of Russia (6).
 - Problem area of blacks and whites here (4,6).
 - Small footnotes in regard to permits (7).
 - Extras helping to gladden Darby and Joan (7).
 - Always included in a stage direction (8).
 - More than one spoke, coming out of the centre (5).
 - Sound circuit's failure (5).
 - In this mood you can make your choice (8).
 - Fish allowed as a delicacy for tea (7).
 - The office representative admitted to Christian name (7).
 - This pop hysteria is strange for a manual health worker (15).
 - Dashing like a ship built for speed (6).
 - Kaleidoscopic light may be irresistible (8).



- DOWN
- Richard and King Edward huddle (6).
 - Murch stuffy to iron part of staircase (5,4).
 - Perhaps a Sûreté stiff? (7).
 - Jives, say, in clubs (5).
 - Apart when asleep (7).
 - Behave decently to relative, we hear (5).
 - Name Cesario concealed in the plot (8).
 - CO's assistant has one no-trump? He'll be lying next! (8).
 - Deserter gets placed in a crew by word of mouth (8).
 - Angler, or his prey (5,4).
 - House buzzer may be stuck on lure (3,5).
 - Somehow Alice's grabbed the right cakes (7).
 - Two boys, one in the percussion section (7).
 - Easy to get annoyed (6).
 - Canoe plying to and fro (5).
 - What's in this container may be boiled in kettle (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,268

BACKSIDE BERSIA
RAMBLER LIP
ON THE DANGER LINE
WINTER PANG
BACKBITE OPTIMISM
RECHARGE
HEIRLOOM
TRUSTEES
FORMER BUICKS
RMAE LER
FLOWER QUEERIO
SINIAHCEIT
TENNISCOURTATH
MAGNIFICENT
WOMEN OPERATIC

Solution to Puzzle No 17,273

ASURES LATTERED
MARTINET STEMAN
RECHARGE
FLOWER QUEERIO
SINIAHCEIT
TENNISCOURTATH
MAGNIFICENT
WOMEN OPERATIC

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: *The Times*, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 0DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr A Bremner, Leamington; Mrs Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire; Mr I Crosswell, The Old Rectory, Shelton, Norfolk; Mrs M E Everen, Penhale Trewarden, Tintagel, Cornwall; Mr G Harrison, May Cottage, Manchester Rd, Tidswell, Buxton, Derbyshire; Mrs E Johnson, St Elizabeth's Ave, Bitterne, Southampton.

Name.....
Address.....

WEATHER

Fronts will move NE into Britain later in the day. In many regions it will be dry and bright at first but in some northeastern districts there may be showers at first. Dull wet weather will reach some western parts by afternoon and rain will spread further E during the afternoon and evening, although some eastern regions may stay dry. After a slight frost in a few places early in the day it will become generally mild. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain, some bright intervals. Mild in most places at first.

AROUND BRITAIN

Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Scarborough	0.1	10	5
Bradford	0.1	10	5
London	0.1	10	5
Cardiff	0.1	10	5
Belfast	0.1	10	5
Edinburgh	0.1	10	5
Glasgow	0.1	10	5
Manchester	0.1	10	5
Newcastle	0.1	10	5
Nottingham	0.1	10	5
Sheffield	0.1	10	5
Sunderland	0.1	10	5
Swansea	0.1	10	5
Torquay	0.1	10	5
Wolverhampton	0.1	10	5
Wrexham	0.1	10	5

ABROAD

Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Algeria	0.1	10	5
Amsterdam	0.1	10	5
Antwerp	0.1	10	5
Athens	0.1	10	5
Berlin	0.1	10	5
Bombay	0.1	10	5
Buenos Aires	0.1	10	5
Calcutta	0.1	10	5
Cairo	0.1	10	5
Cardiff	0.1	10	5
Chennai	0.1	10	5
Copenhagen	0.1	10	5
Dublin	0.1	10	5
Hong Kong	0.1	10	5
London	0.1	10	5
Lyons	0.1	10	5
Madrid	0.1	10	5
Moscow	0.1	10	5
Paris	0.1	10	5
Rome	0.1	10	5
Singapore	0.1	10	5
Tokyo	0.1	10	5
Winnipeg	0.1	10	5
Zurich	0.1	10	5

LIGHTING-UP TIME

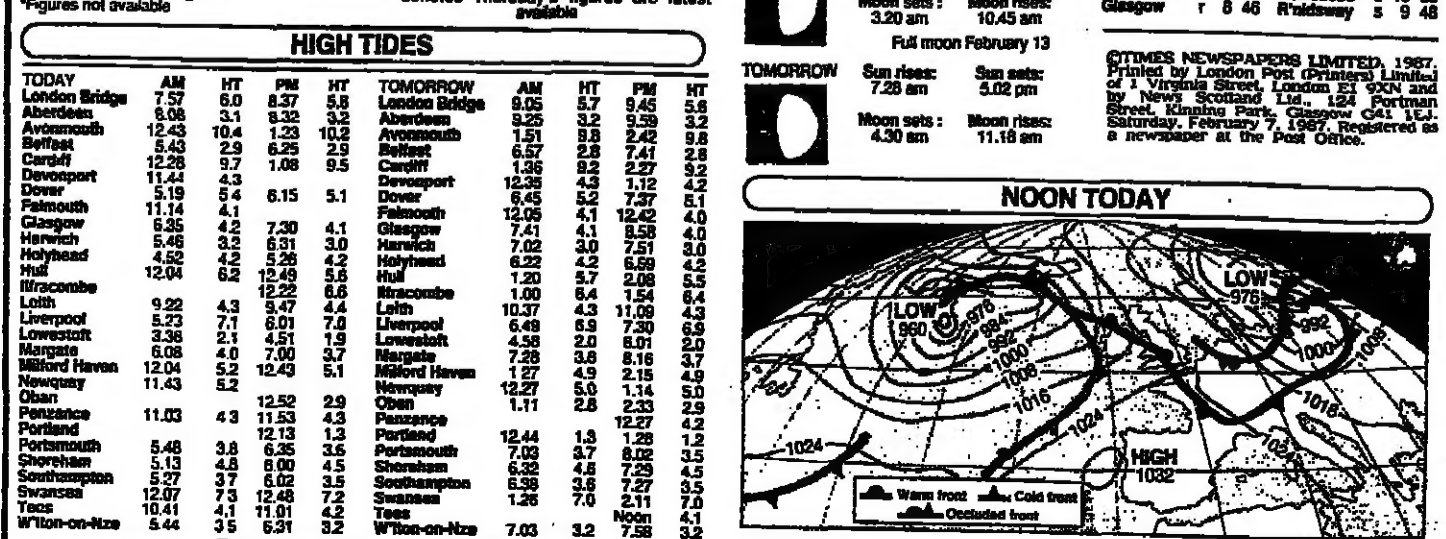
Sun	Rain	Max	Min
London	0.1	10	5
Edinburgh	0.1	10	5
Glasgow	0.1	10	5
Manchester	0.1	10	5
Newcastle	0.1	10	5
Nottingham	0.1	10	5
Sheffield	0.1	10	5
Sunderland	0.1	10	5
Swansea	0.1	10	5
Torquay	0.1	10	5
Wolverhampton	0.1	10	5
Wrexham	0.1	10	5

YESTERDAY

Sun	Rain	Max	Min
London	0.1	10	5
Edinburgh	0.1	10	5
Glasgow	0.1	10	5
Manchester	0.1	10	5
Newcastle	0.1	10	5
Nottingham	0.1	10	5
Sheffield	0.1	10	5
Sunderland	0.1	10	5
Swansea	0.1	10	5
Torquay	0.1	10	5
Wolverhampton	0.1	10	5
Wrexham	0.1	10	5

NOON TODAY

Sun	Rain	Max	Min
London	0.1	10	5
Edinburgh	0.1	10	5
Glasgow	0.1	10	5
Manchester	0.1	10	5
Newcastle	0.1	10	5
Nottingham	0.1	10	5
Sheffield	0.1	10	5
Sunderland	0.1	10	5
Swansea	0.1	10	5
Torquay	0.1	10	5
Wolverhampton	0.1	10	5
Wrexham	0.1	10	5



Tide measured in metres: Tm-0.20m, Tm-0.20m, Tm-0.20m